



Rowing captains, Mahlatse Chocho, Lynne Swingler and Chanté Louw holding the winner's shield at the annual Gauteng Schools' Rowing Championships

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The end of the school year is a couple of weeks away and, at times, it seems to be approaching rapidly, while also seeming to drag. In the same way there is a positive feel about emerging from the pandemic matched with an uncertainty of the pandemic's threat in the coming months.

Our community is fatigued after what has been a challenging year, but I am also aware of the optimistic and hopeful exuberance that fills the atmosphere around the school. The girls are busy again and involved in activities that contribute to their well-being. This newsletter presents that activity, including St Mary's rowing success at the Gauteng Schools' Rowing Championships. The optimism of the girls lifts our eyes to a new year and a promise of greater freedom and less impact of the pandemic. It also nudges us to leave the habits of the pandemic behind us.

A new school year presents a new beginning. I would like to see an intentional focus on the values of our school - love, community, integrity. These values are derived from the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and hold us to account for our relationships, for treating one another with respect and kindness, for our honesty and accountability.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The image below is offered as a meditation, a reminder of our humanity. The image of the Madonna and Child transcends its locality. In a Christian context, it represents Mary and Jesus. However, on a closer look, we can see ourselves in the image. Life is lived in a community with others: one day, we are the child in the image, and the next day we are the adult. The image is now largely hidden unless you frequent the Junior School or the print room. In the Senior School it is above the door of Ms Quix's office. When the entrance in Athol Street was still in use, this was the first image that greeted parents, girls and other visitors.

Exposure to the elements has resulted in the colours fading, broken fingers, and some scratches. None of this takes away from the beauty of the image and the story it tells. It adds a depth of meaning, that even if we are hurt, we can still reach out to one another.

The image of the Madonna and Child is a visual reminder of our school values of love and community. The family is the first community to which children are introduced. It is also where they learn to love God, neighbour, and self. It is where they learn *botho*: the idea that their humanity finds fulfilment only in community with others.



Madonna and Child

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

FORM I PROGRAMME

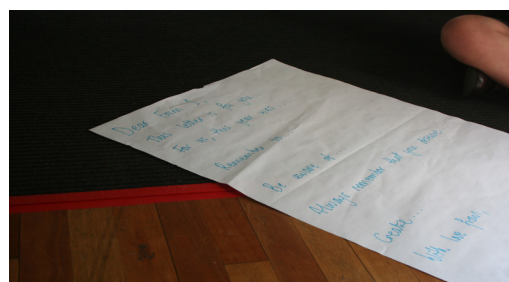
Advice from a Form I, "Use the chances you get."

During the Form I programme this term, we were fortunate enough to have a workshop organised by Zandile Bekwa, a St Mary's Old Girl. Students from Wits University, who are part of the Drama for Life Programme, worked with us.

The workshop focused on four areas: Form I, St Mary's, South Africa and Women. We worked in groups with our facilitators to demonstrate our feelings on these topics through living pictures - a moment captured in time to demonstrate our feelings, opinions or experiences. Some that come to mind are a cowering woman dominated by a violent man, high selfies or TikToks which are so much part of our Form I experience. It was fascinating to see what other groups had come up with and these frozen moments resulted in lively discussion.

On returning to our groups, we brainstormed words that came to mind when we thought about community - friendship, support, difference, similarity, co-operation. Based on our experience this year, we wrote a letter to the incoming Form I girls. It has not been an easy year and, hopefully, we have thought of everything that will help them to manage their first few months more easily. Our best advice is that some mistakes you have to make yourself but everything is much easier with a friend. "Interact with your form." "Use the chances you get to make new friends - across classes and forms."

SALLY INGWE AND EMMANUELLE MIHIGO
FORM I STUDENTS



FORM II

From Friday 22 October to Tuesday 26 October, the Form II girls went on a bush adventure to Elangeni Resort in Waterval Boven. The purpose was to get the girls outside and into the bush and for them to spend some much-needed bonding time together as a form. Activities included a 23 km hike over two days with a sleep-out overnight at the halfway point. They also spent some time by themselves, tackled an obstacle course and chilled at the pool and in the river. There was a very competitive football match and a swim at a waterfall. A bonfire was enjoyed on the last night with stories around the fire. Thank you to Malcolm Douglas and his team from the St John's College outdoor adventure school for facilitating our camp and supporting us at Elangeni.

MELANIE BLAIR
TEACHER IN CHARGE



ENGLISH

This term, in the Form II Literature period, we read three salacious short stories, one of them being the darkly comic *Lamb to the Slaughter* by Roald Dahl. In this story, Mrs Maloney, a 1950s housewife, murders her husband with a frozen leg of lamb after he reveals that he is leaving her and her unborn child. The premise for the short story was said to have been suggested to Dahl by his friend, Ian Fleming, who proposed that Dahl write about a woman murdering her husband with a frozen leg of mutton which she then serves up to the investigating detectives. You can read this twisted tale of revenge at <https://www.classicshorts.com/stories/lamb.html>.

The students were assigned the task of writing their own alternate endings to Roald Dahl's original conclusion. Here are a few scintillating and scandalous endings:

Climax of Roald Dahl's story:

"For God's sake," he said, hearing her, but not turning round. "Don't make supper for me. I'm going out." At that point, Mary Maloney simply walked up behind him and without any pause, she swung the big frozen leg of lamb high in the air and brought it down as hard as she could on the back of his head. She might just as well have hit him with a steel club."

Ashley Stainforth's ending:

At the same time, she screamed, for she was surprised with the murder. Disgusted with herself and the blood seeping out of Mr Maloney's head, she started getting frantic. She truly did love him. Being a detective's wife, she knew what the consequences were for murder, and started crying, but immediately stopped. For she knew that the neighbours had heard her scream. She couldn't go to jail, she thought to herself. It would be a lifetime of loneliness, for what? A crime she regretted. She could now hear the neighbours' front door slowly creak open. She started running towards the stairs.

I could never let my child be separated from me, she said to herself, racing up the stairs. Not like I was, from my parents.

Mary Maloney found herself in their bedroom, staring at the room. But there was no time to think about grief because the neighbours' voices were in her house.

"Mary?" Then there was a shriek from the kind, elderly woman who lived next door.

Mary Maloney quickly retrieved a key and ran to the safe. As she opened it and fiddled around, she heard footsteps approaching the bedroom. Her fingers wrapped around something cold and hard that made her shiver. Her husband's gun, which he kept for safety reasons, lay in her hand.

Suddenly the door swung open, with a loud thud. The elderly woman's husband stood in the door frame. Seeing the gun, he took a step back and lifted his hands. But that was never Mary Maloney's intention. Just like she had never intended to kill her husband. She swiftly lifted the gun and shot.

The man was left staring in awe at the limp body of Mary Maloney.

Shamiso Chitenhe's ending:

Mary looks down at the limp corpse with disgust. Not for her actions, but his.

She's baffled, bewildered but mostly beyond reasoning. Taking in the ghastly sight of her husband, she sighs, puts down the lamb, then makes her way to the landline.

"Mary, can I call you a bit later? My hands are rather full with the twins, my jo--"

"I cannot believe you."

"What's wrong?"

"Don't play stupid, I already know."

"Th- the line is awful Mary, really let me ring you back, ok?"

"You're my sister, Jane."

"It's not like that! Oh Mary, I'm so sorry but please listen to me."

"I'm sorry too."

"Why? Mary why are you sorry?"

She hangs up and smashes the phone, sending brittle pieces of plastic flying in all directions.

That home-wrecking, backstabbing ...

Her thoughts were deranged by a knock on the door.

“Sod a dog, why don’t you.”

After glancing through the peephole, she saw that it was only the milkman.

“Why Ricky I must say I’m fully naked right now, just leave it there on the step why don’t you. Thank you, sir.”

Moments later, she lies on the floor chucking pieces of her husband into the fireplace. Auburn sparks dance around the space. A rather peculiar sight to say the least.

Maybe it was baby fever, the twilight aura or maybe she just didn’t care. But there was a smirk, so eerie and unsettling, slithering across her face as she sang to herself, eating a medium-rare leg of lamb.

Ruby Logan’s ending:

Mr Maloney would not be going out that night. He did not need to say it aloud, his body, which by that point, had already crumpled, unmoving, to the floor, spoke volumes. On the other hand, Mary Maloney, who was standing over him, was silent. She stood frozen, nearly as still as her husband, the solemn expression on her face revealing nothing about how she felt in that moment, however, if you were to look quite carefully and peer into her eyes, you might’ve glimpsed the cogs turning in her head, and witnessed whispers of treacherous emotions that flicked behind her impassive mask. Though you would not have the time to identify any of them, as she swiftly straightened her posture, walked into the kitchen, towards the oven, and, very simply, placed the leg of lamb inside of it.

She set a timer before returning to the dining room, where her husband continued to lie lifeless on the floor. She plastered a bright smile onto her face before exclaiming, “My, you must be exhausted to be so soundly asleep at this hour! Why don’t I help you to bed?”

Mary Maloney, with all her strength, managed to drag the weight of her husband up the stairs and into their bedroom, where she pulled him into their freshly made bed and beneath their pristine bedsheets. As she did so, the timer downstairs rang, signalling that the lamb was finished cooking. She made a move to exit the room but paused for a moment to speak, “Darling, I’ve been pondering over what you said to me earlier. I must say, it doesn’t bode well with me. I think it is best that you don’t leave me, and that instead, you stay with me. Forever.”

Mr Maloney did not protest. He did not say anything for that matter. He merely lay still, quiet as death, in their bed. A pool of crimson had begun to seep into the fabrics that he laid on, but Mary Maloney took no interest in it. She simply smiled to herself before nimbly slipping downstairs to retrieve the lamb from the oven.

JESSICA BUCHER
ENGLISH TEACHER

DEBATING

Gauteng Junior Team 2021

Congratulations to the following individuals who have made the Gauteng Team for 2021.

Aarya Maharaj, Roodepan
Alexia Muzenda, Brescia House
Ameer Loomat, KES
Bonolo Mthibi, RESOSA
Bontle Nkosi, RESOSA
Fhulufhelo Phalandwa, RESOSA
Francesca Lewitton, St Mary’s
Hisham Chowdhury, Sacred Heart
Juhi Baboolal, St Mary’s
Keketso Smith, Parktown Girls
Khathutshelo Ramanala, RESOSA
Laura Helling, Parktown Girls
Leano Sejo, Randfontein
Mary Maphosa, JDK
Mohammed Sallie, KES
Neo Leselane, Roodepan
Nikara Soorja, HeronBridge
Osiane Sekano, KES
Riya Viash, Trinity House
Rolvhuwa Mshophe, RESOSA
Ruvvarashe Sajanga, Fourways High School
Saiyuri Rampathi, Trinity House
Siyabonga Mange, JDK
Thomas Baigent, Jeppe Boys



Our congratulations are extended to Franscesca Lewitton (Form II) and Juhi Baboolal (Form I) on being selected for the Gauteng Junior Debating Team for 2021.

SIMON IDEMA
DEBATING CO-ORDINATOR

AFRIKAANS

A total of 50 girls from Form III to Form V wrote the ATKV Olympiad (Senior Afrikaans First Additional Language) on Tuesday 18 May this year. More than 1 800 students from all over South Africa wrote the examination with an average result of 58% being achieved. This was the first time that the Olympiad was written online.



Annika Gertenbach

Annika Gertenbach (Form V) achieved a distinction of 86,9% - an excellent result! She was one of the Top 20 achievers in Gauteng for the second year in a row. Well done, Annika!



Gabbi Craven

Gabbi Craven (Form III) achieved an amazing result of 84,6% and is one of the Top 100 national achievers for 2021. We are very proud of Gabbi.

The following students achieved results of 70% and above:

Form III

Anna Shaw
Jasmin Vermeulen

Form IV

Lynne Swingler

Form V

Yvonne Dippenaar
Marguerite Hollands
Mia van der Westhuizen
Hailey Wilcocks

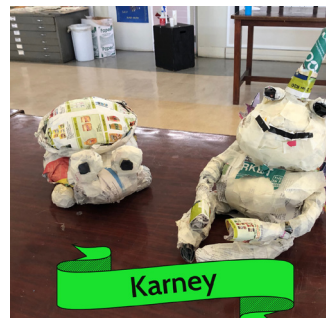
Well done to everyone who completed the Olympiad in 2021. Form III to Form V girls are encouraged to participate in the 2022 Olympiad. Entry details will be available early next year.

ESMALET VAN ZYL
AFRIKAANS TEACHER

ART

Before breaking for half-term, the girls competed in the inter-house art competition. In house teams, they had to create a house mascot using only newspaper and masking tape. They only had an hour in which to create these colourful characters and the competition tested their creativity and teamwork skills. The competition results were as follows:

- 1st: Phelps
- 2nd: Clayton
- 3rd: Karney
- 4th: Furse



DANIELLE MOWATT
HOD: VISUAL ARTS

BOOK BUFFET IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE



When it comes to reading, just like eating, some kids have fussier palates than others. We piqued their appetites for a good read with a book tasting. This activity gave students the opportunity to sample some juicy reads in a short period and come away with a wish list of titles.

The set-up in the Resource Centre was buffet style where pupils could make an assortment of choices. The girls spent a few minutes checking out the front and back cover, reading the inside flaps, and browsing the book for a first impression. When the allocated time was up, students wrote down observations and made note of whether or not they wanted to add the book to their wish list.

OLIVIA JOHNSTONE
SENIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

IKUSASA LETHU

On Saturday 30 October, the Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 learners from Ikusasa Lethu celebrated their year-end prizegiving. It was wonderful to be back in The Edge, acknowledging and celebrating the learners' achievements. The guest speaker, Revd Rakgadi, gave an account of her personal journey and spoke of the importance of following one's own path. The learners had the opportunity to thank their valued teachers and mentors for their expertise, guidance and support during the year. Programme co-ordinator, Robyn Knowles, paid tribute to Mrs Linda Giuricich, Director of Community Partnerships, who retires after 17 years of dedicated service to Ikusasa Lethu and thanked her for her significant contribution to the Ikusasa Lethu Programme. The learners also had the opportunity to thank Ms Jane Lawther for her loyal service and wish her well in her retirement.

We keep the learners of Ikusasa Lethu, and especially those in matric, in our thoughts and wish them well as they write their year-end exams.



JESSICA LANSDOWN
HEAD OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

DANCE



Congratulations to Zeinab Kone who competed recently in a South African international ballet competition in Cape Town. She was required to perform one ballet *repertoire en pointe* and one contemporary piece, along with attending master classes and preparing for the gala performance. At prizegiving, Zeinab received a special award from the Royal Ballet School in the UK. To watch her two performances, please click this link.

<https://vimeopro.com/laugesorensen/saibc-zeinab-ntombifuthi-kone>

The year 2021 saw all our dancers continue to show real passion and dedication when it came to training with no performance platform in sight. The girls met on Zoom and learned choreography until they were able to meet in the dance studio once again.

The enthusiasm since returning to The Edge Studio has been endless as they prepared for their first live performance experience in two years. We entered SA Dance Championships which were held in October and showcased three groups, a duet and three solos, all of which obtained excellent results.

Our senior ballet girls entered a dance titled *Masquerade Ball* and were awarded a gold with 84%. Please click on the title to view the dance. [Masquerade Ball](#)



Back row: Bontle Kganyago, Christine Nyamaropa, Cholinga Chakwawa, Gianna Branco, Abby Coppola and Jodie Warner
Front row: Julia Simonato and Naledi Diale

The focus of our dance team this year was to assist each dancer to develop in her individual way. We have celebrated the diverse talents that we have in the group and worked on strengthening the team spirit and supporting one another in the creative journey.

The St Mary's team entered a dance titled *Formula* which was choreographed by Lesedi Mochela and Reece Williams. They were awarded a gold with 80.7%. Please click on the title to view the dance. [Formula](#)



Back row: Christine Nyamaropa, Reece Williams, Talsia Rossini, Mpho Mudau, Naomi Quinn, Abby Coppola.
Front row: Venus Chow, Jodie Warner, Agape Mhlanga.

All Covid-19 regulations were adhered to by the competition organisers and under adjusted level 1 the girls were allowed to take their masks off stage, dance without masks and don them as soon as they exited stage once again. This was both exciting and daunting as the girls felt strangely exposed and vulnerable but performed their hearts out.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK
DANCE TEACHER

Our contemporary girls entered a dance titled *The River Sings* and were awarded a high gold with 85.3%. Please click on the title to view the dance. [The River Sings](#)



Back row: Christine Nyamaropa, Abby Coppola, Aimee Rosmarin, Jodie Warner
Front row: Gemma Scarcella, Georgia Pritchett, SaraMari Grey-Johnson, Naomi Quinn
(Not in the picture): Cholinga Chakwawa, Sacha Bray, Agape Mhlanga, Lebone Tshetlo



ROWING

Over the weekend, from Friday 5 November to Sunday 7 November, the annual Gauteng Schools' Rowing Championships took place. The event was hosted at Germiston Lake with all the Gauteng rowing clubs participating. St Mary's came home with excellent results and lots of medals from all age groups! The St Mary's rowing club placed first overall out of all girls' schools, with the highest number of points achieved. The regatta was a great way to end the half-season, with smiles and high spirits. Good luck to our seniors who will continue training, as selections will be taking place for Boat Race which will be held during December in Port Alfred.

"In rowing, as in life, there are competitors and there are racers. The competitor works hard and rows to their limit. The racer does not think of limits, only the race." -Jim Dietz



CLARE KEEGAN
FORM III



GOLF

Congratulations to Gia Raad (F1) who competed in the SA Kids Golf for Juniors and won the trophy for the Player of the Year. This means that she had the highest average score for all tournaments that were played. It was the first time ever that a blazer was awarded with the trophy to a female golfer within this federation. An excellent achievement, Gia.



QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

TENNIS

The tennis season ended on a high note with the top eight Form I and II players competing in the junior inter-high competition. The A team, comprising of Moroesi Tuoane, Tayla Gibbs, Natasha Jenkins and Ilana Buck, played tennis of a high standard to beat Trinity House and Hoërskool Linden to reach the finals where they lost to a very strong team from Helpmekaar. Congratulations to Natasha and Ilana who were unbeaten throughout the event. The B team, comprising of Kirsten Hadiaris, Madison Corbett, Ella Stipinovich and Abigail Rigby, competed well and lost a very close first match to Crawford Sandton but then beat both Brescia House and Redhill to end fifth in the B section.

Well done to all the players on their high standard of play and enthusiasm and commitment shown throughout the first half of the tennis season.

Congratulations to our number one player and matric, Sarah Millard, who has been selected for the South African U20 team to compete in the AUSC Region 5 Youth Games taking place in Lesotho in December. This is a fantastic achievement. Unfortunately, Lilitha Ndungane, who was on the short list, did not make the final selection.

Congratulations to Moroesi Tuoane (Form I), who was selected to participate in the prestigious South African Growthpoint Masters Event in the U14 age group. This gave Moroesi the opportunity to compete against all the top players in South Africa. Keep up the hard work.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



Sarah Millard



Moroesi Tuoane



Tayla Gibbs, Natasha Jenkins, Moroesi Tuoane, Ilana Buck



Kirsten Hadiaris, Madison Corbett, Abigail Rigby, Ella Stipinovich

WATER POLO

Well done to all the St Mary's water polo players who have been selected for their respective age group teams. They will all be competing in the SA schools' inter-provincial water polo tournament in December in Cape Town. St Mary's wishes these players all the best of luck for the tournament and for their teams.

U14 A
Julia Joseph

U14 B
Isabella Rajak
Tlotliso Pokane
Victoria Staples
Skyla Roberts

U14 A Eastern Gauteng
Mabiyane Sekgobela
Simran Soni
Cara Formby



Julia Joseph U14A

U15 A
Mikayla de Bruin
Amy Smith
Jessica Black

U15 B
Grace Faber
Ciara Lynch

U15 C
Rachael Mang'ana
Sienna Blaauw
Chloé Theorides
Angelique Towell
Kganya Kodisang

U16 B
Emma Morley

U19 Squad
Nyakallo Kodisang
Abigail Milella



Gauteng U15 B and C



U15 A Gauteng: Mikayla de Bruin, Amy Smith, Jessica Black



Isabella Rajak U14 B



Emma Morley U16 B



Nyakallo Kodisang U19 squad



Abigail Milella U19 squad



Tlotliso Pokane U14 B



Skyla Roberts U14 B



Victoria Staples U14 B

KELSEY THOMSON
HEAD OF AQUATICS

BASKETBALL

Great excitement was had at the various inter-house events this term. It was wonderful having the girls compete and enjoy their time together. All the participants involved themselves fully, the houseleaders ensured that everything ran smoothly, and the supporters were energetic and enthusiastic.

The inter-house basketball competition included mixed teams owing to the seniors missing out earlier in the year. Owing to Covid-19 the senior girls could not play matches. Instead they had a skills event and accumulated points via dribbling relays, lay ups and shooting competitions. Please open the link below to view the excitement:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f0uB708o9gnfVuGyxqDGreh9g8ZTSddc/view?usp=sharing>

Basketball (mixed teams)

1. Phelps
2. Karney
3. Clayton
4. Furse

Ergo

1. Furse and Phelps
2. Clayton
3. Karney

Soccer

1. Furse and Karney
3. Clayton
4. Phelps

Junior Tennis

1. Clayton
2. Phelps
3. Karney
4. Furse

Well done to all the competitors, the organisers in each house and to the staff in charge. Your contribution is appreciated!

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HOD: SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT



ED-ADMIN

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 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 portal, please click on the link below or visit the school website on www.stmarysschool.co.za and click on the portal login on the top right of the page.
<https://stmarysw.ed-space.net/pparentportal.cfm>
- 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.