



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888

17 NOVEMBER 2023

# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

011 531 1831 | [info@stmary.co.za](mailto:info@stmary.co.za) | [www.stmaryschool.co.za](http://www.stmaryschool.co.za)

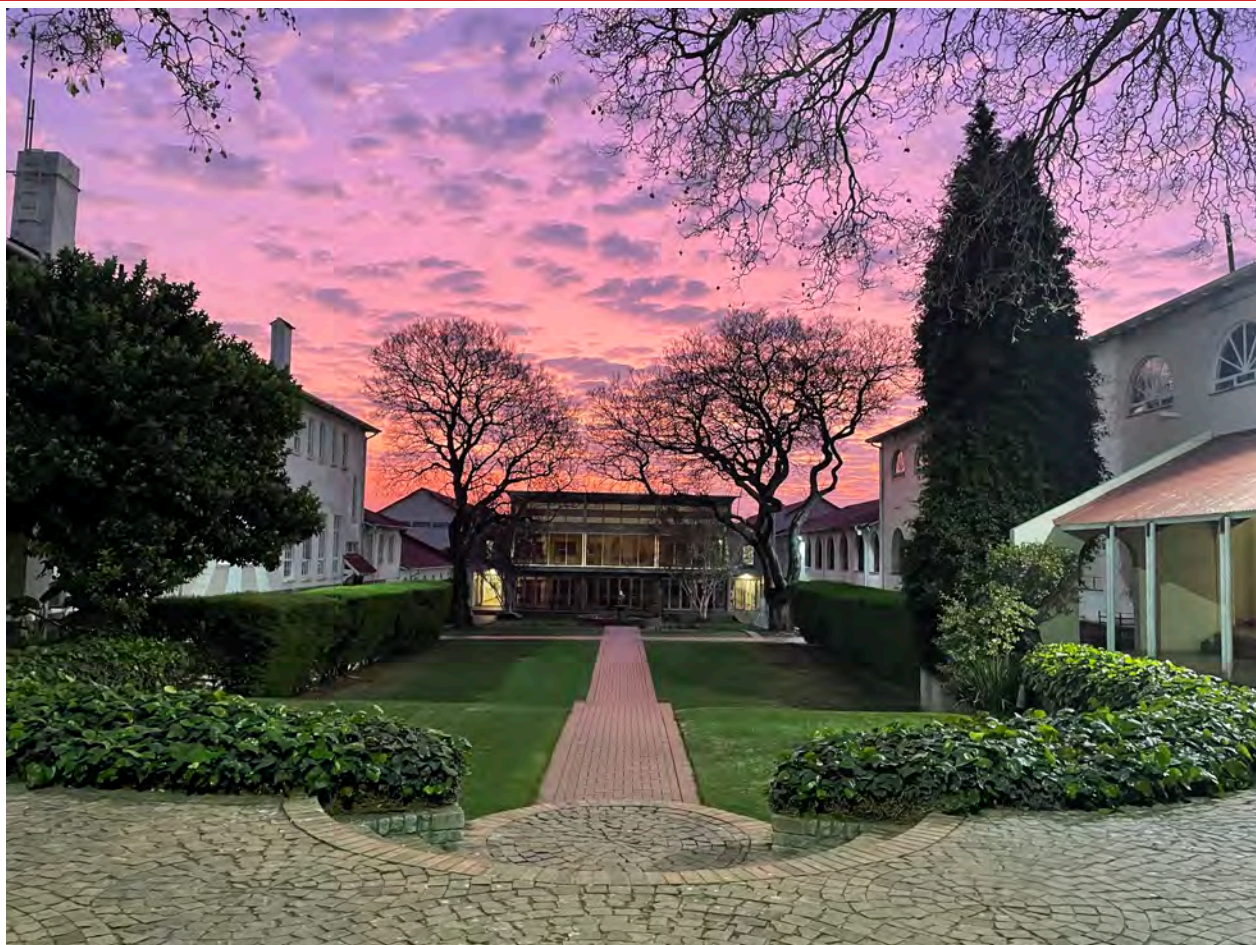


Photo by: Dani Cooper

## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) publishes a quarterly magazine *Independent Education*, which presents articles on research and trends in education and showcases specific work in schools. It provides some pleasant and inspirational reading for teachers.

I was browsing through the latest edition last week and I was not surprised to come across several articles on mental health. This is currently a focus for all schools as we experience increased levels of anxiety and stress in young people.

In the same edition of *Independent Education*, certain programmes and webinars were promoted with the intention of helping children achieve their desired success. The phrases: develop a purpose, plan a path, prepare for the route were repeated continually in the promotion.

These programmes encourage children to map out the years at school - to set goals and to plan each step on the path to their desired outcomes.

The message for our children is that there is little space in childhood and adolescence for languid exploration of interests, for play and recreation, for spontaneity and the formation of self. Everything we know to be normal. Rather, education and in fact everything, must be clearly defined and deliberately planned for one's ultimate success.

It concerns me that the obsession with achievement and success is causing the decline in our children's mental health and well-being.

DEANNE KING  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Writing on why South Africa should observe Remembrance Day, Allan Sinclair writes:

*As a comparatively young country which permitted only a small segment of its population to bear arms, South Africa nevertheless made significant contributions to the Allied causes in both world wars and in the Korean War.*

On Tuesday, we held our Remembrance Day chapel. Churches and schools in South Africa have war memorials to remember those of their communities who served and died in the two World Wars. In her reflection, Ms Dingle spoke of the importance of memory and remembering and encouraging us to remember those who have died in the two World Wars and those who have been killed in the many wars and uprisings since then.

Christian communities played a significant role during and after the war, offering pastoral care to families and being part of rebuilding communities. The school website records the following incident on how St Mary's was affected following the end of the First World War and responded:

*In the last months of the war, many thousands of South Africans of all races succumb to Spanish influenza. The pandemic, one of the worst human disasters ever, kills up to 6% of the global population. The particularly virulent H1N1 flu strain spreads to every corner of the globe, assisted by the return of millions of soldiers who had participated in the world war. South Africa is not spared. St Mary's School looks like a hospital, as every bed is filled by those fighting for their lives.*

*In these difficult times, when some St Mary's fathers have perished alongside the millions of others, when communities and economies around the world have been devastated and South Africa slides into a post-war depression, St Mary's College is not spared and fights for its very survival .*

*As St Paul writes to the Corinthians: And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

<https://www.stmarysschool.co.za/timeline-entries/the-first-world-war-ends>

RAKGADI KHOBO  
CHAPLAIN

## MEET THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT



Danielle Mowatt  
HoD: BA Hons, PGCE (Wits)



Kaolin Thomson  
MAFA (Wits)



Sue Hydenrych  
MEd (Rau)  
Locum art teacher

## DANCE



Congratulations to Tshegofatso Modise (Form IV) and Khumo Mochela (Form III) who have received their national (Protea) colours in Dance Sport.



Khumo Mochela (Form III) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> (out of 18 competitors) at the IDO competition in Slovenia. She competed in the Street Dance Show Solo Female Junior category, and because of her placing, is now the Vice-World Champion! Congratulations, Khumo!

CLAIRE van NIEKERK  
TEACHER INCHARGE



# FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## Form II alternative endings

In Form II, our literary focus this term was on how short story writers, using an economy of words, are able to write compelling tales which continue to captivate the imaginations of new readers. We read Roald Dahl's well-known, darkly twisted *Lamb to the Slaughter* and Can Themba's popular and regularly adapted, menacing psychological narrative *The Suit*. Instead of asking our students to respond to these texts by answering technical questions on plot, structure, character and theme in a formal assessment, we asked them to engage dialogically with the writers and provide their own endings to these renowned stories. Below are four example responses - Jenna Blaauw and Phatsimo Mugodi wrote alternate endings for *Lamb to the Slaughter* and Maya Ndegwa and Victoria Kahwa offered their own conclusions to *The Suit*. You can find readily available copies of these shocking tales on the internet.

### *Lamb to the Slaughter*

Little did she know she would come home to find nothing but a trail of blood. She had prepared herself that when she returned home, she would be overwhelmed with emotion but as she opened the door and saw nothing, she was more shocked than she thought she would ever be. She did a double take just to make sure and started to panic. "Where could he have gone?" she cried over and over. She frantically started looking everywhere for clues when she realised the car keys were missing. It is over, she thought. He has gone to the police, and she could not get the image of a prison cell out of her head. She dropped down onto the nearest chair and racked her brain for a story which could prove her innocence.

Then, she heard them, the sound of wailing sirens in the distance slowly getting closer and closer. She heard a knock on the door and as she opened it to find two of Mr Maloney's colleagues standing in front of her, she froze.

The first officer eventually worked up the courage and said, "Good evening, Mrs Maloney. We regret to inform you that your husband has been involved in a terrible car accident and he has sadly not made it out alive."

Mary just stared as the two officers turned around and walked away. The second officer stopped halfway to the car and Mary's heart skipped a beat. He turned around and said, "Mrs Maloney...it smells as if there is something burning in your oven." **Jenna Blaauw**

### *Lamb to the Slaughter*

The four men searching the rooms seemed to be growing weary, a trifle exasperated. They excused themselves and headed home. Jack Noonan, having been a long-time close friend to both Patrick and Mary, offered to stay and comfort Mary. "You're too kind Jack, but you must go. I wouldn't want to upset your wife."

"Oh Mary, You must know that we've been divorced for several months now," Jack replied.

The pair of them sat silently in that living room riddled with the faint smell of death. It wasn't until perhaps ten minutes had passed that Jack said something completely absurd.

"I know you did it."

Now the silence in the room had turned from slightly awkward to a tangible sourness in the back of Mary's mouth. Stuttering, Mary answered, "I'm afraid I haven't a clue what you're talking about."

"I know you killed Patrick. But before you begin to panic, allow me to explain."

And so, he began. "I had always been unhappy in my marriage, and as I'm sure you know, Patrick had always been unhappy with his job." Jack paused before continuing, "Well, Patrick struggled to compartmentalise his problems and his singular problem of losing the job promotion caused him so much frustration that he began an affair."

Mary yelped with the shock of his words.

"Of course, being the great detective I am, I found out. But I cared too much about you to allow him to continue to be unfaithful. So, I offered him my job. It would pay him well enough to be able to set up a new life while still supporting you and the baby. Plus, it was the promotion he had always wanted."

Now Mary's face had become devoid of emotion.

"It really is no surprise that your heartbreak over him leaving you led you to kill him. It's alright Mary, I understand. Let me now be the one to care for you."

Jack got up and started walking into the kitchen. "I'll go dish up supper - lamb, is it?" Jack said, as he left.

In the other room, Mary Maloney began to cry.

**Phatsimo Mugodi**

### *The Suit*

After the party, Philemon went off with one of the guests who had promised to show him a joint 'that sells genuine stuff, boy, genuine stuff.' Matilda stood in front of the sink, busy as she washed up, and while her exterior looked calm, her mind was in a frenzy. How could Philemon humiliate her in front of all her friends with such ease she thought as she placed the last dish on the rack to dry. Even though she made a mistake she had been remorseful ever since! A tear slid down her face as she thought about all he had put her through.

Drying her hands, Matilda continued with the task of tidying up however she could not stop her tears as they rapidly rolled down her face. Distraught, Matilda decided to take a seat at the dining table, there was no need to rush as Philemon would be out late much like most nights for the past few weeks. As her frantic breaths steadied, and her vision cleared, Matilda sat back in the seat letting her tense muscles relax.

Matilda's eyes slowly scanned her surroundings - she admired a picture of her and Philemon sitting and laughing by the lake.

She recalled how one of their neighbours had taken the picture of them while they had been on one of their weekly dates. Standing up, Matilda glided over to the counter where the photo stood proudly in its frame and flung it to the ground. The sound of glass shattering echoed across the still room. Matilda then bent down and picked up the largest piece of glass. She slowly brought the shard of glass to her face and examined it. She then looked over to the other pieces of glass littered across the floor and examined her own reflection.

After a couple of moments Matilda fisted a handful of her hair and in one swift motion, slashed it off with the piece of glass. Then she grabbed another chunk of hair and without thought sliced through her hair. Her movements became robotic as again and again she grabbed her hair and cut through it with no remorse.

Once Matilda had no more hair to cut, she rose and studied her dark, thick locks lying on the floor. She then walked back over to where “the guest” lay on a chair and picked it up. In a matter of seconds, Matilda had stripped off her clothes and put on “the guest”. She then entered the bedroom and walked to Philemon’s side of the bed. Facing his bedside pedestal, she lowered herself and opened the last drawer where he kept his savings, she shoved the envelope filled with cash into her front suit pocket, then rose slamming the drawer shut.

Matilda walked over to their bedroom window dressed in Philemon’s guest, with his life savings in her pocket and climbed out the window, and just like that the suit left the same way it entered. Only this time, Philemon would never see it again.

**Maya Ndegwa**

### *The Suit*

Reeling drunk, late that Sabbath, he crashed through the kitchen door, onwards to his bedroom. Then he saw her.

A sight to behold, Tilly was draped in the navy suit, emboldened by the armour-like feeling it provided. Alcohol spurred Philemon’s rage and it crescendoed as he sluggishly whipped his arm out, catching the soft skin of Matilda’s cheek. Suddenly, a silver ladle, still grimy with the luncheon’s delights knocked Philemon’s head, causing him to crumple to the floor.

Swimming lazily in and out of consciousness, a disembodied voice croaked, “I cannot go on, Phil”. A hazy but distinctly ebony-coloured face came into view. “Had passion driven all wits out of the boy’s head,” thought Philemon. The face above shape-shifted to resemble Tilly’s lover, then Tilly. Groggily and painfully, Philemon attempted to lift his head, just as the suit and its possessor flitted through the door, joining the customary throng of drunks and unwanted strays out in the streets.

The Suit boarded the bus, which was heaving with rain-soaked men who all wore a weary yet bright-eyed expression. The men looked on curiously at the formally dressed man with the feminine face. Finding solace in the soiled but deserted back of the bus, the Suit folded into itself, on a cracked seat, with insurmountable grief and relief. Steadily, the bus’s passengers crawled dejectedly back to their grumbling wives and complacent children. The rickety bus’s chugs and hisses, coupled with the radio’s tinny sounds and the rain drumming on the roof, blanketed the sobs coming from the back.

The albatross soared freely through Tilly’s mind as, back in Sophiatown, Philemon began to wake to the sound of matutinal drizzle.

**Victoria Kahwa**

## Form I alternative endings

Earlier this term, the Form Is were given the task of reinterpreting a children’s story, fairytale, parable or nursery rhyme. The students were given the freedom to choose a story and then to make it their own, by applying it to a modern setting, adjusting the nature of the characters or altering plot elements, all the while keeping the original recognisable. Below are two examples - Jayden de Bruin who rewrote *Cinderella* as an under appreciated tech genius and Kristin-Rain Kok’s street smart *Little Red Riding Hood*

### *Cinderella*

Once upon a time there was a tech genius with all the secrets to AI. Her name was Cinderella. Cinderella lived with her evil stepmother and her two evil stepsisters. Cinderella was the person who invented AI, but unfortunately, her evil stepmother took credit for all her work and keeps her locked away to keep the secret about the complex algorithms safe.

“Excuse me, Madam,” the AI robot on the TV said to Stepmonster, “you have been invited to the Apple CEO’s conference to show him your amazing invention of AI.”

“Aaaaah!” Stepmonster screams, “girls, Mommy is going to be a millionaire!” Stepmonster then turns to Cinderella, instructing, “Cinderella, make me an AI robot to take to the conference. If this isn’t done before the end of dinner tonight, I will take away your iPad.”

Hearing that, Cinderella ran to her room and spent the whole day without eating anything so she could finish the robot. “Here you go, Stepmon...Stepmother,” She said. “Why does this thing look just like you, it’s hideous!” her stepmother demanded. “Sorry, Stepmother, I didn’t mean to do it.”

The morning finally arrived and as she arrived at the conference, the CEO looked very excited to finally meet the so-called ‘tech genius’.

Back at the penthouse, Cinderella was very upset. She was talking to her fairy AI godmother, complaining about the unfair situation. “Go!” says the fairy AI godmother, “go to the conference and tell them.”

When Cinderella arrived at the conference, she could see that everyone looked very amused with her invention. “Stop!” she shouted, “I created AI. This is my invention! Look, it looks exactly the same as me.”

Everyone looked shocked, but Cinderella’s stepmother, with flames of anger in her eyes, grabbed Cinderella and ran off with her back to the penthouse, leaving the robot behind. “Find her!” said the CEO to his bodyguards, “find the girl who looks like this robot.”

The bodyguards went around town scanning every woman’s face with an ID scanner. “It is me, your machine is just broken,” all the women said. The next morning the guards go to Stepmother’s penthouse and scan Cinderella’s face. It is a 100% match.

Cinderella is taken to the CEO’s office. He is very impressed, and the story of Cinderella went viral and was all over TikTok and Instagram. The CEO fell in love with Cinderella and finally asked her to marry him.

Cinderella was free from her evil stepmother. They all lived happily ever after, except for Stepmonster who was way too embarrassed to leave her home ever again.

**Jayden de Bruin**

#### **Kristin-Rain Kok - Red Hood**

“See you tomorrow Cindy” Red Hood greets her friend as she walks away from her apartment. She drops the keys in her Louis Vuitton bag and pats on her COVID-19 mask. Red is going to visit her grandma for Christmas Eve as they have not seen each other since lockdown started.

As Red makes her way through the neon city streets of Las Vegas, she is stopped by a cat caller. “Hello gorgeous,” calls the young man with a grey hood pulled over his head. “My name is Wolfe, what is yours?” he asked. “Not interested, Wolfe, I have more important things to do than galivant with you” Red replied. But Wolfe persists, “Come on where are you headed, my lady?” Red ignores him, as a 6’1 fiery redhead who works out six times a week and has a black belt in Karate, she does not get scared easily.

She continued to make her way to the shops. Meanwhile, Wolfe had his own plan. Seeing Red with her Louis Vuitton bag made him realise where she was going. There was only one woman in Las Vegas who was rich enough to afford Louis Vuitton and she was also Red’s grandma. Grandma Hood lived in a mansion on the outskirts of the city. “That is where Red is going!” he shouted.

Grandma was trying to beat her high score in just dance. Wolfe came from behind and knocked her out, she crumpled to the floor with a grunt. He rolled her under the couch. Then he jumped into grandma’s clothes, put on a ‘granny’ mask and waited patiently.

“Grandma, I have arrived!” Red burst in through the front door. “Come here dear, let me see you,” said Wolfe disguised as Grandma Hood. Red senses that something is wrong. “Grandma, what lovely makeup you are wearing,” Grandma does not wear makeup. “Only to look pretty for you my sweets,” Wolfe replied nervously under the mask.

“What small eyes you have,” Red commented. “It is but a pain, I cannot even read what I am typing for my phone’s password. Could you help me with it, darling?” Wolfe said. “What a lovely bag you have, it is quite big, is it not?” asked Wolfe trying to get to the point so he could ask for the bag. “Thank you, all the better to BEAT you with grandma or should I say...Wolfe!” shouted Red.

**Kristin-Rain Kok**

## **FORM III AFRIKAANS SET WORK**

### **Author and guest speaker, Sally Partridge inspires students with literary insights**

Last week the Afrikaans department had the privilege of hosting a renowned author as a guest speaker. The event was a literary delight, giving our students a unique opportunity to connect with the world of literature in a truly remarkable way.

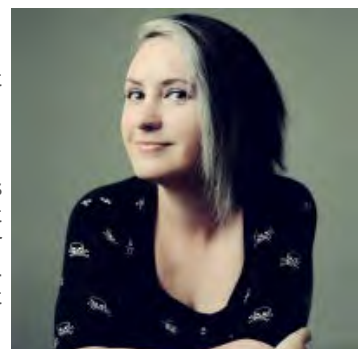
Our distinguished guest speaker was none other than Sally Partridge, the author of the Afrikaans set work for the term, *Skerwe*. Partridge is a bestselling author, celebrated for being the Best youth/young adult fiction writer as well as the SABC’s writing competition winner. Her impressive literary career spans years, and her words have resonated with readers of all ages. We, as students, were fortunate to hear from such an accomplished writer and Partridge did not disappoint.

During the event, Sally shared insights into her writing journey, offering a rare glimpse into the creative process that brought *Skerwe* to life. She discussed the inspiration behind her stories, her writing routine, and the challenges she faced along the way. The students were captivated by the stories of how a simple idea could evolve into a compelling novel through dedication and hard work.

The event also featured an engaging question-and-answer session, where we had the opportunity to ask Partridge about *Skerwe*, the unconventional structure of the book and other things such as themes and inspiration for the characters. It was truly heartwarming to see the classes so enthusiastic and eager to learn from a master of the writing craft.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sally Partridge for taking the time to speak to us and share her wisdom and passion for literature. We would also like to thank our teachers, Ms Jacobs and Ms Hinckeman for organising this extraordinary event, making it a memorable experience for us.

In closing, the talk with Sally was an enriching experience that reaffirmed the importance of literature and the magic of storytelling. We look forward to more opportunities to connect with literary luminaries in the future, inspiring the next generation of writers and readers.



Sally Partridge

**OREFILE MOTSUKUNYANE  
FORM III**



## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We congratulate four pianists who achieved outstanding results in The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations:



Kristin-Rain Kok (Form I) -  
Piano performance Grade 3



Elizabeth Curtis (Form II) -  
Piano Grade 6



Kimaya Shah-Naidoo (Form I) -  
Grade 7 violin and Grade 5  
piano



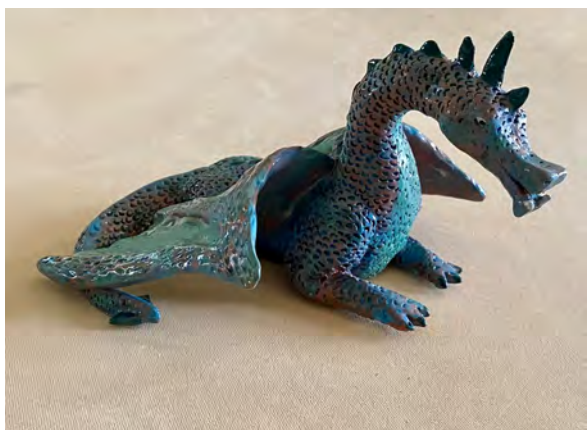
Nyamikha Mause (Form I) -  
Piano performance initial

**DUDLEY TROLLOPE**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

## POTTERY CLUB

Form I and II girls had a productive term in the weekly Wednesday morning cultural sessions. They carefully modelled a bird in clay which has been bisque fired and then painted and glazed.

**SUE HEYDENRYCH**  
ART TEACHER



# FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

## Sport success at St Mary's 2023

"The only one who can tell you 'you can't win' is you, and you don't have to listen." –Jessica Ennis-Hill

### Athletics

#### Senior

- Won inter-high

#### Junior

- Won Junior Prestige

### Basketball

#### Senior

- 1<sup>st</sup> team lost only one local league match in Term III
- U14 team was unbeaten, in the local league
- Three girls were selected for the City of Johannesburg U15 team that played in the OR Tambo Social Cohesion Games

### Diving

#### Senior

- Won Summer Splash
- 2<sup>nd</sup> at National Aquatics Festival
- 2<sup>nd</sup> at inter-high
- Nine provincial representatives
- Two girls competed at the Dresden Youth International
- One girl competed at the World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan

#### Junior

- Won inter-schools for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row
- Two girls competed at U16 nationals
- Six provincial representatives

### Equestrian

#### Senior

- 4<sup>th</sup> at Gauteng finals - the top Johannesburg school
- Ten Provincial representatives
- Two South African representatives

#### Junior

- 14<sup>th</sup> at Gauteng finals
- Five provincial representatives

### Hockey

#### Senior

- 1<sup>st</sup> team ended the 2023 season ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the country
- Made the final of the St Mary's Festival (for the first time since 2016)
- Sixteen provincial players
- One representative in each of South African U18A, U18B and U16A

#### Junior

- No official inter-schools league
- Four Grade 6s made the D9 team
- Two Grade 7s made the D9 team

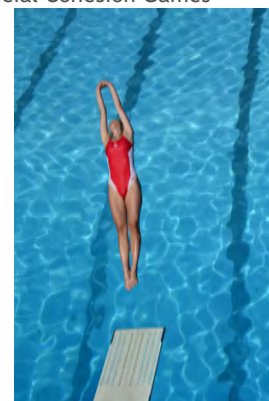
### Netball

#### Senior

- St Mary's U15 Netball Festival doubled in size (from 12 teams to 24 teams)
- First-ever live streaming of English school netball matches (St Mary's vs St Andrew's)
- U15 A team qualified for Gauteng Championships
- D13 B team championships - St Mary's had all age groups (U14-U18) qualify for these championships
- Overall 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the district league

#### Junior

- No official inter-schools league





## Rhythmic Gymnastics

### Senior

- Three gymnasts represented Gauteng at Gym Games

### Junior

- Forty four Provincial representatives
- Four gymnasts represented Gauteng at Gym Games
- One gymnast in level 7, received a gold medal for her free dance at the Gym Games
- Three of the Junior School ball groups represented Gauteng at Gym Games



## Rowing

### Senior only

- Won Boat Race in December 2022
- Won South African Rowing Championships in March
- Won Gauteng Rowing Championships in November
- Six girls were selected for the U16 South African Schools Rowing Development Team
- Three girls represented South Africa in Paris at U19 Rowing World Championships



## Squash

### Senior

- Won Gauteng Top Schools' squash
- Won two leagues
- One South African Top 10 representative

### Junior

- Played league

## Swimming

### Senior

- Won Summer Splash
- 2<sup>nd</sup> at National Aquatics
- Won inter-high A and B galas (first time in history)
- Four girls qualified for Senior Nationals
- Four girls qualified for Junior Nationals
- Four girls swam for Gauteng schools

### Junior

- Won the A 50m final gala
- Won the A 25m final gala
- Won the B 25m final gala
- One swimmer represented South Africa



## Tennis

### Senior

- Won Senior inter-high (25 schools participated in this event)
- Won the Premier League
- Two players in the U19A GC Provincial team.

### Junior

- Won the Independent Schools Tournament at Sun City
- Came second in Gauteng North, East and Central in the BNP Rising Stars Primary School event
- Two provincial representatives



## Water polo

### Senior

- Placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at Roedean Prestige
- Placed 10<sup>th</sup> at the St Stithians Stayers tournament
- Fifteen provincial reps

### Junior

- Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the St Mary's U13 championship
- Placed 8<sup>th</sup> at the St Stithians invitational tournament
- Nine provincial representatives





## ROWING

### St Mary's has won Gauteng Rowing Champs!

Girls in every age group of the club rose to the occasion at the Gauteng Junior Rowing Championship which took place from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 November and because of their immense effort and passionate prowess, the club was able to claim the position of first overall, which defines St Mary's as the fastest girls' rowing club in the province. The girls claimed 52 medals overall, 24 of them being gold.

Some of our stellar results are; our JW/GU14 8x+ placed 1<sup>st</sup> and the JW/GU15 2x and JW/GU 4x+ placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and for the senior results; our girls claimed gold in six out of 11 events including the JW/GU19 4x+ and the JW/GU19 1x. Our pride extends to our U16 who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the JW/GU16 4+ and the JW/GU16 2x. Congratulations girls!

The Standard Bank SA Schools' Boat Race will take place on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December in Port Alfred on the Kowie River. The crew consisting of four rowers, a reserve and a cox has been selected this past week from a 5km ergo trial, a doubles matrix and coxing trials. The coaches for the tour are Caitlin Dace and Matthew Soll. The training process has just begun and the crew is going to have to channel their passion and focus leading up to the race so as to keep our eight-year winning streak going!

All the best to the Boat Race Squad of Danelia Price-Hughes (Form IV), Heather Welchman (Form IV), Justine Swingler (Form IV), Lily Van Loggerenberg (Form III), Nicole Ledlie (Form III), and Sophia Babaya (Form IV).

**LILY van LOGGERENBERG**  
Form III



Caitlin Dace, the head coach of the South African Junior National Rowing team and head of rowing at St Mary's School, Waverley, has been making waves in the sports world lately thanks to her participation in the University of Hertfordshire Women in Sport High Performance Program, which is sponsored by the International Olympic Committee..... [read more](#)

## SWIMMING

Congratulations to Grace Morris (Form II) who has been selected to swim for South Africa at the 15<sup>th</sup> Africa Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships in Mauritius, from Wednesday 6 until Sunday 10 December.

This is an outstanding achievement and we are so proud of Grace.

**QUIX**  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



## TENNIS

Congratulations to Moroesi Tuoane (Form III) and Bailey Selvam (Form II) for being selected for the Gauteng Central U19 team that will participate in the schools' inter-provincial in January. Good luck for the tournament.



Bailey Selvam



Moroesi Tuoane

**RENÉ PLANT**  
HEAD OF TENNIS



## ST MARY'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

On Thursday 26 November, Ma Sithebe, Ma Ngobesi and Mrs Northmore traveled to Dundee in KwaZulu-Natal to reconnect with schools that we had last visited in 2019. Over the past years, we had managed to collect a wide variety of school uniform, stationery and sanitary towels - this was made possible by Ramadimetja Montjane (Form IV) who ran a special project for the purpose.

Both schools were delighted to see us again and we hope that we will be able to visit these schools more often going forward. We were treated to displays of prepared reading, slam poetry, a delightful skit commentating a soccer match and the most wonderful troops of dancers.

The netball girls from Rutland Primary School were particularly delighted as they are participating in a tournament and did not have suitable kit for the occasion. Thanks to your generous donations, the team will participate fully kitted out. We were also able to acknowledge the top learners with a backpack and essentials which made for a lovely surprise. Many of the children remember a war-cry that our girls taught them when we last visited and gave us a good performance.

We were also glad to hand over classroom posters made by our girls. The teachers were thrilled and this is something we can start working on immediately in anticipation of our next trip.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CO-ORDINATORS



## IKUSASA LETHU

Christmas is around the corner and while we are getting excited for the break, many of our Ikusasa Lethu learners are worrying about how they will afford the Christmas period and the coming academic year.

December can be a very difficult time for many of these families as they are not able to collect lunches from the school nutrition programmes, so household expenses go up at the same time that they have other financial responsibilities. The majority of the families in our Ikusasa Lethu Programme have a combined household income of less than R5000 per month. A pair of school shoes can cost between R240 and R600 and a *Casio* scientific calculator is now R395 and compulsory for all learners.

Please consider donating to the Ikusasa Lethu Programme as part of your Christmas cheer. Donations we are in need of include:

- Second hand school shoes
- *Casio* scientific calculators
- Textbooks
- Generic uniform items
- Sanitary pads

Monetary donations are very welcome as we use these to purchase food parcels for families in crisis. For more information please email [robyn.knowles@stmary.co.za](mailto:robyn.knowles@stmary.co.za) or drop off donations with Lynn Northmore or at the Senior School reception.



ROBYN KNOWLES  
HEAD OF IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 setup 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](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za).



## SUPPORTER GEAR FROM THE CLOTHES CUPBOARD



**ST MARY'S SUPPORTER GEAR  
AVAILABLE FROM  
THE CLOTHES CUPBOARD**



St Mary's School  
Waverley  
Founded 1888