



At the end of Term II, the sports captains for the 2021/2022 season were announced. (Please see page 4 for further information)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The St Mary's campus is showing signs of spring and the buildings are filled with the enthusiastic noise of the girls. It is a delight to have all the girls back on campus.

The value of socialising, collaborating, and mediating challenges daily empowers our children for the world beyond school.

Covid-19 regulations and, particularly, those with regard to schools continue to instruct all our planning and functioning. The arrangements of our daily routine, which includes assembly, chapel, and hymn practice, benefit from the revised regulations, which allow us to use our venues to 50% capacity. The co-curricular programme has also started with a positive response from the girls.

The experience of singing in chapel, training on the sports fields, and rehearsing in The Edge has meant that we have experienced some of what we as a community thrive upon. Some specifics of the schedule last week included the Form V's writing preliminary examinations, which are progressing smoothly and will inform their preparation for finals; the Form IV's completed their leadership seminar and will now decide on what roles they would like to serve in and lead; the Form III's begin participation in the leadership programme with many girls applying to serve on the different student committees.

The co-curricular programme has also started with a positive response from the girls. The best speaker competition was held at the beginning of the week and there have been a few sporting events, including a win for our tennis team.

One of the recent exciting initiatives is campus radio, which delivers valuable content and entertainment during breaks.

We look forward to an exciting and busy term.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The new term started with morning prayer: a prayer of praise to begin not just the day, but also the new school term. During this time of the pandemic, we have lost much, and we have gained much.

Starting the term with morning prayer, instead of the Eucharist, was a reminder that we are still in a time of pandemic and need to remain vigilant and cautious in all that we do. While the Eucharist is the central act of worship for the church and the school, the daily offices of morning and evening prayer help us keep time. These services serve as a daily reminder that *“for everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven, a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time dance; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1,2,5)

We extend our prayers to Gabriella Zambelis and her family on the loss of their father. May you find peace and comfort in this time of loss.

May we give thanks to God that we were able to gather in chapel for worship and give thanks for the time of rest we have had and for the beginning of the new term, asking for God’s grace during this last term of the year for 2021.

Let us pray:

*O God of new beginnings:
give us courage to turn and joyfully follow you
into new adventures of faithful service;
through Jesus Christ our light and our salvation,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*



REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

SACEE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

This year, students from the Writer’s Circle, which runs during the 9th period and as a cultural on Thursdays, submitted their work to the exciting SACEE Creative Writing Competition. Designed to foster and encourage creativity in writing forms like poetry, prose, and monologue, this year’s competition was themed, *“The pandemic continues.”*

Emma Dippenaar (Form I) submitted a wildly original short story titled *“The Death Words”*. Lethabo Molekwa (Form I) based her short story *“Lercia”* on a faraway planet emerging as earth’s biggest rival for resources. SaraMari Grey-Johnson (Form I) crafted a short story entitled *“Don’t Be Afraid”* featuring a runaway teenager during a raging pandemic. Fhatuwani Nyathela (Form IV) submitted a gripping monologue entitled *“All In The Past”* that showcased her character’s great resolve.

Entries closed on Tuesday 31 August and the submissions are currently being adjudicated. Watch this space! Anyone interested in finding out how to join Writer’s Circle should speak to Jane McMurray.

ADRIAN ASHLEY
WRITER’S CIRCLE FACILITATOR

ENGLISH: TRAVEL WRITING

The Form IIs were tasked with stepping into the role of a travel journalist, writing about a favourite destination or experience. The goal was to stretch beyond mere guidebook information and provide a feeling of what it is like to be there. Below is one of the submissions.

JAMES BEALL
ENGLISH TEACHER

The great Orange River

There was not a cloud in the sky, only the baking sun beating down on me and my fellow companion, in our little rubber boat. Sun scorching the Namibian sand stone giants to our right and the South African giants to our left. We drifted in between them, on the body of water that created a barrier between these two counties, the Orange River. The mountains towered above us making us feel small and vulnerable. It was the second day of battling down the Atlantic Ocean's river source.

We had travelled from Augrabies falls and would finish our watery adventure before the river extended into the icy marine. The day had gone by quicker than most. We had arrived at our camp site a few hours before. The Namibian earth was covered by rocks that radiated heat from the day. Our two-man tent stood on the hard surface. It looked rather poignant and out of place. The sky was darkening, sun setting behind the mountains, leaving a golden hue in its wake. The silence was deafening, almost like nature was grieving. Not a soul in sight...

I lay down on the toasty rocks, the adrenaline fizzled out of my veins. The lack of electronics and WiFi didn't phase me. I was lost in a world that I rarely got to experience, serene nature. The amphibians croaked their off-key tune. There really were many unknown wonders to this marshy river source.

Oranges and yellows soon faded into inky blues. Stars followed shortly after, littering the sky with tiny lights. A milky river flowed across the night, illuminating the rocks with a pale glow. The sky seemed extended, touching each side of the earth. I felt as though I was stuck in a snow globe with no way out. A shooting star crossed the glass dome, but what more could I possibly wish for, I wondered.

AVA ECONOMAKIS
FORM II

MUSIC

Both Ella Pretorius and Zeinab Kone (Form I) entered for the online version of the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music organised by the South African Society of Music Teachers. Ella received an honours certificate for solo flute and Zeinab achieved an honours certificate for solo piano. We are so proud of our girls who have set themselves performance goals and have achieved such brilliant results. Well done, girls!



Ella Pretorius



Zeinab Kone

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

SPORTS CAPTAINS 2021/2022

Sport	Position	Name and surname
Athletics:	Captain	Ella Babaya
	Vice-captain	Holly-Rose Brady
Basketball:	Captain	Realeboga Moseitlhe
	Vice-captain	Zoë Christodoulou
Diving:	Captain	Tannah Proudfoot
	Vice-captain	Sacha Bray
Equestrian:	There are no matrics	
Hockey:	Captain	Kristy Leonard
	Vice-captain	Ella Babaya
Netball:	Captain	Mahlatse Chocho
	Vice-captain	Shamiso Shirilele
Rhythmic Gym:	Captain	Lesedi Mochela
	Vice-captain	Reece Williams
Rowing:	Captain	Lynne Swinger
	Vice-captain	Mahlatse Chocho
	Vice-captain	Chanté Louw
Squash:	Captain	Tayla Rohana
	Vice-captain	Sasha Steyn
Swimming:	Captain	Emma Franck
	Vice-captain	Danielle Grobbelaar
	Vice-captain	Samantha Faber
Tennis:	Captain	Tyrah Cook
	Vice-captain	Isha Madhu
Water Polo:	Captain	Nyakallo Kodisang
	Vice-captain	Samantha Faber

PUBLIC SPEAKING



On Monday 13 September, eight of the school's best speakers competed for the title of 2021 Senior Best Speaker. The topic of the competition was to use the prefix "re" as inspiration for a five minute speech. Every speaker authentically used her voice to present her unique interpretation of these small, seemingly innocuous letters - yet what incredibly intelligent and varied interpretations did we, the lucky audience, get to enjoy. Dimona Wa Mukenyi (Form III) and Aimee Rosmarin (Form IV) were the runners-up of the evening, while Tessa Dagut (Form III) wowed Ms Fiona Kampmann (HoD of the department of English at St John's College) with her lyrical reflection on the possibility of reinvention. She is a deserved winner of this year's competition. Below is Tessa's speech transcript.

THE POSSIBILITY OF REINVENTION

To add a prefix to a word is to demand that it reinvent itself. To change the position, the time, the stance, to take place above or below, before or after. When the topic of this competition was announced, I was perplexed, to say the least. In past competitions, I've written about the lure and appeal of fire, and waxed poetic about the promise of spring after a harsh, cold winter, so when I was told this year's topic was the prefix "re" I found myself agonizing about how to present a speech about something so reduced? All my life, I have taken prefixes for granted. During my sixteen years on earth, I had never even given them a second thought.

I could smoothly talk my way through a speech about onomatopoeia - how it breaks the wall between reality and the page, calling on all our senses to the reading experience. I could spend a good three minutes exploring the deep existential nature of a full stop, if the ending is truly the end? But as I sat down to begin writing this speech, my page stayed blank. I decided it was time to do some research.

I began with the definition of a prefix. A function of language that changes the meaning of a word completely. My Google search claimed that a prefix was also known as a "performative". I felt strongly drawn to prefixes at this moment as this is a label that friends and family often attach to me when they think I'm being a bit too theatrical. I think that they lack an appreciation of my passionate response to life's challenges. In furthering my research, I looked up the definition of "-re". I learned it actually has two definitions, and I find them quite paradoxical. "Re" means to do again or to repeat but can also suggest going backwards.

Is it even possible to do that? To repeat and reinvent at the same time? How does one move on, while a shadow of their past lurks behind. For example: I don't think I'm the only one in the room who comes with up with a mental list of resolutions the night before a new school term. "I'll study hard for every test, I'll make sure my locker doesn't turn into a landmine of forgotten notes and crumbled exam pads, and I'll most definitely do my Maths homework as soon as I get it, and not frantically ten minutes before the lesson starts". I also think I'm not the only one who drops these resolutions a week after the term begins. Reinvention, in these moments of falling victim to an old habit you've tried hard to forget, suddenly seems to be an impossible notion.

I've tried very hard to reinvent myself in the past, but I now understand after countless attempts that people aren't blank canvases. In my experience, even with the promise of a new journey as you enter Grade 8, your past still sneakily follows you around. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, it's in our nature to be complex and built on a foundation of experiences and woven history with other people, places, and things. As Tennyson's *Ulysses* tells us "I am a part of all I that I have met."

I turn to another of my favourite poets when I find myself contemplating the possibility of complete and utter reinvention. Like Tennyson, T.S. Eliot's poetry speaks of exploration and voyage. I believe that these lines from his poem "Little Gidding" describes the nature of the prefix "re" perfectly.

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*

"Little Gidding" is part of Eliot's Four Quartets which was his last major piece of work.

In a brilliant celebratory overture of being human, he describes the treacherous journey that comes with life. T.S. Eliot calls the reader back home, to reflect on how far they have come, and how their growth will aid them in all that is left to discover.

In order to begin the process of reinvention, sometimes we have to go back to our origins, and perhaps only then, will we start truly to understand ourselves in all our performative, paradoxical imperfection.

TESSA DAGUT
FORM III

FORM I PROGRAMME

After wholeheartedly embracing the challenge of online exams, the teachers recognised that, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Form Is had little opportunity to embrace, experience or understand what being in Form I at St Mary's really means. A programme covering some of this unfamiliar terrain was designed by Mrs Northmore and me. Just seeing and being with people in person, as opposed to online, lightened the mood of all. The days brimmed with self-enriching activities: talks from guest speakers specialising in a diverse number of fields, including the challenges of growing up, sobering information about the dangers of social media, as well as being privileged enough to participate in a conversation about modern day women and Women's Day, feminism and allyship with a panel of SMOGs. We explored the precious, and sometimes humorous history of the school from Ms Howell's perspective, and participated in lively sporting games and inter-house competitions. We also unexpectedly took knitting to the extreme and we contributed to the ongoing Ecobricks project.

Even though we held this programme for five mornings only, it felt as if it were a month's worth of activities. The days were highly beneficial and educational in all aspects, from respect and common decency to leadership and kindness. Everybody should have emerged with a little more tolerance, understanding and positivity than before but, if we ever forget, a quick glance at colourful, painted rocks nestled around the school, should remind us.

Mrs Northmore, Ms Quix, Mrs Howell, Miss Div and the other accompanying staff really outdid themselves.

QUIX
FORM I CO-ORDINATOR



SMOGS: Zandile Bekwa (2006), Kganya Kodisang (present student), Rea Maroga (2018), Julie Herold (1992), Hazel Bango (1996)

KARONGWE NATURE RESERVE SERVICE TRIP

From Sunday 28 August to Thursday 2 September, 15 St Mary's girls (Forms II, III and IV), Ms Quix and I went on a trip to the Karongwe Nature Reserve near Hoedspruit to learn about the South African bush and do community service in the local community. We learned about poaching and trophy hunting, and how to identify trees, birds, reptiles, snakes and invertebrates. We spent a morning at the Hoedspruit reptile centre, went on game drives and walked in the bush. The girls saw lots of game including porcupine, cheetah, lion and a leopard. They also saw a Narina Trogon. We learned about animal spoor and had an astronomy evening. The girls worked in the community at Mmakadi Crèche, teaching children the alphabet and songs. They also worked at the Seeds of Light Feeding programme, harvesting and preparing vegetables from the permaculture garden and served and fed children from the community.

MELANIE BLAIR
TEACHER LEADER



IKUSASA LETHU



Oyama Tshazibana, a 2020 matric learner on the Ikusasa Lethu Programme and second year Biokinetics student at the University of Johannesburg, has been crowned Miss Teen Southern Africa 2021. She volunteers on the Ikusasa Lethu Programme every Saturday.

ROBYN KNOWLES
IKUSASA LETHU PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

BASKETBALL

Serena Jade Wolfenden and Zinathi Gwina have been selected for the Gauteng U17 basketball team that will participate in the South African U17 training camp in Bloemfontein from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 October.

This camp serves as trials for players from various provinces across the country. The final South African U17 team will participate in the Region 5 Youth Games in December, in Lesotho.

We are extremely proud of the progress that both Serena Jade and Zinathi have made. We wish them both well and we look forward to hearing about their experiences at this level.



Serena Jade Wolfenden



Zinathi Gwina

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HOD: SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT; BASKETBALL

GOLF



It is with extreme awe that I report on the most amazing feat from Samantha Whateley. In the country's latest golf ranking, Samantha is ranked number 1 in Women's Junior division as well as number 1 in the Women's Open Amateur division. This is an outstanding achievement for this 17 year old golfer.

Samantha, Olivia Krige and Gia Raad all played at the Nomads SA Girls' Championships at the Magalies Park Country Club this past weekend.

QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

TENNIS

The St Mary's tennis team began the tennis season by participating in the BNP Paribas Rising Star Event. This event is aimed at increasing participation in tennis at a grassroots level throughout South Africa. The St Mary's team won the district event earlier in the year and qualified for the provincial finals that were held in Pretoria on Saturday 11 September and Sunday 12 September. The U17 team comprising of Lilitha Ndungane, Moroesi Tuoane, Natasha Jenkins and Tayla Gibbs played extremely well to win all the matches in the round robin phase of the tournament to end top of their pool. St Mary's beat a team from the development centre in Hammanskraal in the semi-finals to face Waterkloof who beat the team from Helpmekaar in the other semi-final. In a close and exciting final Natasha and Tayla lost their doubles match, but Lilitha and Moroesi both won their singles matches in a convincing manner against very strong opponents to win the tie by two matches to one.

St Mary's now qualifies for the National finals where we will be playing against all the winners of the provincial events throughout South Africa. Well done to all the players for exhibiting excellent sportmanship and true St Mary's camaraderie on and off the court.

Our league matches have begun and good luck to all the players who will be participating in the league this term. I look forward to an exciting tennis season.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



RHYTHMIC GYM

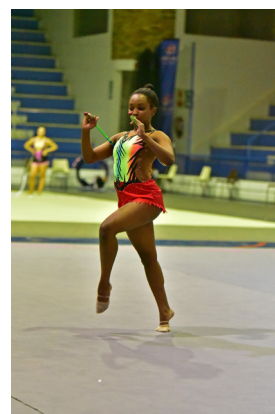
The Level 4 to Level 9s trained during the school holidays and participated in the Central Gauteng competition on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 August and the Gauteng competition on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 September.

The following gymnasts qualified for provincial colours:
Senior School: Zeinab Kone, Lesedi Mochela, Reece Williams, Tshego Modise, Bontle Kganyago, Naledi Diale and Caitlyn Govender.

LINDA GIURICICH
HEAD OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Caitlyn Govender



Lesedi Mochela



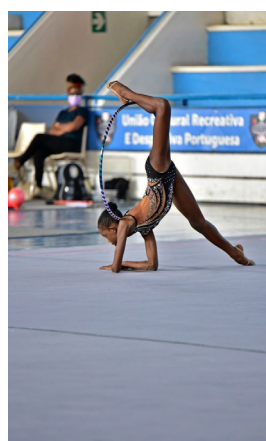
Bontle Kganyago



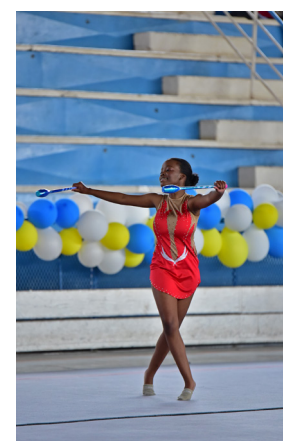
Tshego Modise



Reece Williams



Zeinab Kone



Naledi Diale

EQUESTRIAN

SANESA inter-schools finals: Sunday 4 and Sunday 5 September at Kyalami Equestrian Park

Congratulations to all our riders and their horses at the SANESA equestrian finals.

Onwards to nationals!

Nine riders

10 horses

35 classes were qualified for

23 placings

Six first places

Five second places

Two third place

Three fourth places

Leader in our pool and third overall.

Notable achievements of each rider:

Name	Horse:	Place:	Discipline:
Riley Bate	Cocorico	4 th	Handy Hunter: Level 5 90cm
		11 th	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice
		4 th	Working Hunter: Level 5 90cm
		13 th	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
Sienna Blaauw	Gondor UFO	1 st	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
		5 th	Show Jumping: 100cm 2 phase
		3 rd	Equitation: Intermediate 100cm
		1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 6 Advanced test a
		2 nd	Prix Caprilli: Level 6 Advanced test b
		4 th	Dressage: Elementary Medium test a
		2 nd	Dressage: Elementary Medium test a
		2 nd	Level 7 Performance riding
Katherine Franck	Bodenhausen la Chocoletier	6 th	Equitation: Novice 90cm
Juliana Haden-Smith	Silkwood Lickity Split	5 th	Show Jumping: 100cm 2 phase
		19 th	Show Jumping: 100cm Normal
		19 th	Equitation: Novice 90cm
Bailey Gresty	Cinnamon Swirl	13 th	Show Jumping: 90cm A2
		15 th	Show Jumping: 90cm 2 phase
Erin Jackson	El Vanna	6 th	Dressage: Preliminary
		2 nd	Equitation: Novice 90cm
Emma Lowndes	Silent Night	29 th	Show Jumping: 80cm A2
		27 th	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice Name
Lunathi Mdlungu	Waterside Double Date	1 st	In-Hand Utility: Level 3
		1 st	Working riding: Level 7
		1 st	Dressage: Elementary test a
		4 th	Dressage: Elementary test b
		1 st	Performance riding: Level 7

Sydney Pollock	Voigtskirch Amarosso	13 th	Dressage: Elementary test a
		13 th	Dressage: Elementary test b
		5 th	Performance riding: Level 7
	Voigtskirch Kastellan	2 nd	Equitation: Intermediate 100cm



MELANIE BLAIR
TEACHER IN CHARGE

HOCKEY

During the August holidays, the final rounds of the Southern Gauteng hockey trials took place. Although there is no formal inter-provincial tournament this year, teams were selected for regional matches against Northerns and Eastern Gauteng. These matches will hopefully take place in October.

St Mary's is well represented across the three age groups and we are very proud of all the girls selected for these provincial teams.

U14A

Kyla Grobbelaar
Keratile Manaka
Bailey Gresty

U14B

Kganya Kodisang

Reserves

Gia Raad
Palesa Manala

U16A

Zenande Mbatsha
Hannah White

U18A

Josephine Sabio
Zoë Christodoulou
Kristy Leonard
Ella Babaya



CINDY BROWN
HEAD OF HOCKEY

OLD GIRLS' NEWS



Hannah Pearce and Megan de Lange

Recently in the USA, Harvard and Monmouth Universities played each other. It was very special to see two St Mary's 1st team players from 2016, Hannah Pearce and Megan de Lange, playing against one another in a hockey match. Harvard won the match 1-0.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS

GOLF DAY

St Mary's golf day Booking now open

[Click here to book](#)

Thursday 14 October
Parkview Golf Course
Staggered T-off from 11h30

- Format: Four-ball alliance (2 x scores to count)
- Price: R3 600 per four-ball
 - ❖ Price includes arrival drinks, halfway house and a light dinner at prize giving
 - ❖ Golf carts, caddy and drinks for your own account

For any queries or sponsorship offers, please contact Lisa Grobbelaar at
lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za