

Form IV impressionism art (see page 6)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

On Friday 14 May, we hosted our Welcome Service for new girls. The pew leaflet was dated Wednesday 13 January 2021. It was a poignant reminder of what we have lost or missed during the pandemic.

So many weeks later than planned, we were finally in chapel, in a service to mark the beginning of a journey at St Mary's School and in the Senior School. What could have seemed an irrelevant ceremony given the timing, became rather a meaningful and even emotional service. The centrality of our spiritual lives and the acknowledgement of the strength it provides, was almost tangible in the atmosphere in chapel. This, together with the theme of light and our light within, was embodied in the candle lighting ceremony.

The new girls were introduced to a scripture reading which we read often at St Mary's and marks our special gatherings, Philippians 4:4-9. This, together with the words of our first hymn, encouraged us to persevere through the pandemic and our trials:

*In Christ alone, my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground;
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

We waited many weeks for this ceremony; it was a beautiful and worthwhile experience. Academics are at the core of what we do but all facets of our educational offering - academic, spiritual, sport, cultural - contribute to the unique and rich experience of St Mary's School.

**NOTICE BOARD - PLEASE SEE PAGE 10
FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES**

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

- Acts 2:1-4 (NRSV)

On Sunday 23 May, the church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. On this day, the disciples who were waiting in Jerusalem as per Christ's instruction, received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red, to symbolise the "tongues, as of fire" referred to in the reading above. A dove is often used to symbolise the Holy Spirit, drawing on Christ's baptism in which the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ "like a dove" (Matthew 3). It is in the power of the Holy Spirit that we are called to be Christ to the world.

On Saturday 8 May, Ntombifuthi Masuku's (Form I) sister, Annah, passed away at the age of 30. She had suffered from lupus for four years. The funeral took place at the family home on Saturday 15 May. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Rest eternal grant unto Annah, oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



APPRECIATE THE REAL WORLD

In a world that is defined by chaos, tragedy and heartache, create some silence and let it make you strong. Appreciate the trees, the birds and the butterflies. Express gratitude for the bush, the beach and the berg. Enjoy life's simple pleasures and nurture your soul.

In a world where we are continuously encouraged and coached to be better, do better, respond appropriately and put ourselves first, make a greater effort with your family, your friends and the people who surround you every day; as well as with the unknown person on the street, who can offer you nothing more than a smile. Look after yourself but invest your energy into the wellbeing of others too. Give freely without expecting anything in return. Be selfless in your actions and let the happiness of others be your reward. Be warm, be kind and be inspired!

In a world where societal norms are questionable and ever-changing, morals and ethics are often ignored, and the average person is discarded, be brave, be real, be fierce and be free. Embrace emotion - part grief, part hope and part love - show compassion and exercise empathy.

In a world where what is seen on a screen is valued more than what we experience in real life, be authentic, be independent and accept difference. Place more value on the image that your heart projects, instead of the image that your mirror projects!



TARYN DE WINNAAR
HOD: SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT; BASKETBALL

ST MARY'S FRENCH DELF RESULTS OCTOBER 2020

The DELF Junior qualification is an internationally recognised French language diploma awarded by the French Ministry of Education. The French department at St Mary's encourages all the girls, who have chosen French as a matric subject, to take the DELF A2 and B1 exams and the bravest girls take the DELF B2 exam in October of their Form V year. We also encourage many of the Form II girls to do the DELF A1 exam, especially if they are not continuing with French in Form III, as it is an important addition to their CVs, indicating the highest level of spoken and written French which they have achieved. To put the DELF exams into perspective, it should be noted that the IEB matric French exam is the level of a higher DELF A2 and lower DELF B1 qualification, as it is offered as a second additional language.

The arrival of the certificates from Paris was delayed, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus the certificates from the October 2020 DELF session reached us only last week. As always, the St Mary's French department is extremely proud of its girls and congratulates everyone on the excellent results they have achieved.

DELF A1

Yana Cai
Vianka Chetty
Gabbi Craven
Jessica Curtis
Grace Forrester
Serena Goodman
Zinathi Gwina
Tara Hammond
Thiya Kalan
Clare Keegan
Megan Kench
Lara Kent
Bianca Kritzman
Moleboheng Leeto
Elizabeth Lonmon-Davis
Aashi Madhu
Khumo Makgato
Zenande Mbatsha
Reece McGregor
Mosa Mdladla
Langelihle Molefe
Tanaya Moodley
Gisele Murray

Tinoonga Musasiwa
Jessica Nobela
Amara Nurse
Naomi Quinn
Amy Sharpe
Anna Shaw
Natalie Simon
Olivia Sorour
Rebecca Trickett
Dimona Wa Mukenyi

DELF A2

Sarah-Michele Ellis-Clarke
Akani Baloyi
Stephanie Bergesen
Georgina Castle
Stephanie Castle
Anoshamisa Dube
Gemma Ireland
Zamantungwa Khumalo
Isha Madhu

Mpho Mudau
Georgia Pritchett
Mahlitse Chocho
Kimberly Ingwe

Delf B1

Aleksévi Charalambous
Yvonne Dippenaar
Tamsin Hooker
Pistis Masuko
Lami'ah Nosarka
Saige Turner
Tali Newman
Zoé Cheenne
Lesedi Chocho

DELF B2 (Matrics 2020)

Tylor-nique Gewers
Sayuri Moodley
Isabella Teixeira

CARLA GORDON
HOD: FRENCH

BROTHERS AND SISTERS BEFORE BORDERS (REFLECTION)

Annually in South Africa, the African Leadership Academy (ALA) hosts eager high school students from various walks of life, to participate in a simulation of an African Union Conference. Delegates must separate themselves from their personal political opinions and fully immerse themselves in the persona of their allocated country. Divided into committees, delegates participate in facilitated debate and discussion surrounding topical issues with which the continent is faced. The future diplomats of our continent may very well have been all around us, at this very conference.

The delegates from St Mary's were engaged and lively during their committee sessions in the inaugural ALAMAU virtual conference. The disconnect inherent to online meetings was quickly remedied by icebreakers such as the *Jerusalem* dance and meme competitions that brightened the atmosphere. Suited and booted, our delegates engaged in the formal manner that is expected during parliamentary procedure. I particularly enjoyed the disappearance of age barriers with regards to the respectful and mature interactions that took place.

The theme for the 2021 Pan-African Parliament (my committee) was: *Bolstering Public Health Systems in Conflict Zones to Prevent Humanitarian Disasters, with a broader focus on Covid-19*. Delegates received the opportunity to make an impression during their opening speeches and first debates. The delegates shone individually but, more importantly, interacted as a unit throughout debates, ricocheting off one another's points. Synonymous with their committee, they truly encompassed Pan-Africanism.

The delegates throughout the conference delved deeply into their topics and spoke eloquently about Africa's colonial past, regional conflicts and international debt, in relation to issues related to access to adequate medical care and the impact of the pandemic on tourism. There was a spectrum of ideas and opinions. The African Leadership Academy hosted a wonderful weekend with cultural performances and showcases of talent intertwined with the proceedings. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and the St Mary's girls represented the school well!

NYASHA MAZARURA
FORM IV

DEBATING

The Mwalimu Nyerere Schools Invitational debating tournament was a great opportunity to challenge ourselves and use our April holiday break to improve our debating skills. We covered topics ranging from religion to criminal justice and, in each of the nine rounds, we engaged in interesting and enlightening debates with teams from across Africa. St Mary's senior team won the tournament, with Nyasha Mazarura, Farai Mazarura, Danika Neuhoff, Hayley Laithwaite, and Franscesca Lewitton.

FRANSCESCA LEWITTON
FORM II



Nyasha Mazarura



Farai Mazarura



Danika Neuhoff



Hayley Laithwaite



Franscesca Lewitton

On Thursday 20 April, the junior debating team entered the 2021 Mwalimu Nyerere Invitational Debate tournament. The junior debating team was represented by Reitumetse Molapo, Kgaugelo Makgato, Juhi Baboolal, Thabisile Khumalo and myself.

Going into the competition, we did not have the slightest idea of what to expect. Our coach, Itumeleng Mohanoe, warmed us up, along with the senior team, as the competition was not going to be easy.

Having been given the topic the day before, we spent hours constructing our arguments. We were up against teams from countries such as Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. The judges provided us with constructive criticism.

Throughout the debates we were constantly challenged to improve our skills and techniques and, most importantly, we learned how to ride the chaotic wave of debating. We quickly realised that staying calm would be the best way to avoid mistakes.

A few highlights from the week were our teams making it to the semi-finals and winning rounds against well-known teams but, most of all, it was learning about one another as teammates, building relationships and learning how to encourage one another when the competition got tough. The support from the senior teams and our coach was amazing.

The experience provided us with a great opportunity to refine our critical and creative thinking skills as well as develop our writing and research. We to express our gratitude to all those who supported us throughout the competition.

OREFILE MOTSUKUNYANE
FORM I



Reitumetse Molapo



Kgaugelo Makgato



Juhi Baboolal



Thabisile Khumalo



Orefile Motsukunyane

PHOTOGRAPHY

Here are the winners of our internal photography competition which was held at the end of 2020.

The categories and winners are:



Still Life: *Our Roots* - Zoé Cheenne



At the bottom of the garden:
Golden - Stephanie Bergesen



Life in Black and White: *Morning Sun* - Melissa Welch



Congratulations to Quix who entered the teacher's category with *Edible Fungus*

KATE NORTHMORE
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB COACH

ART

Impressionism came about because it suddenly became apparent that pure colours mix in the eye in a more dazzling way than they have ever been mixed in paint.

Joseph Plaskett

The Form IV Visual Art students have been exploring the style of Impressionism in their Art history classes as well as their practical lessons. They have been experimenting with colour mixing and a variety of paint techniques. They completed small paint sketches or studies based on Monet's *Water Lilies* to get a sense of the loose, vibrant and improvisational style of the Impressionists. They are currently working on their own impressionist scenes on large canvases.

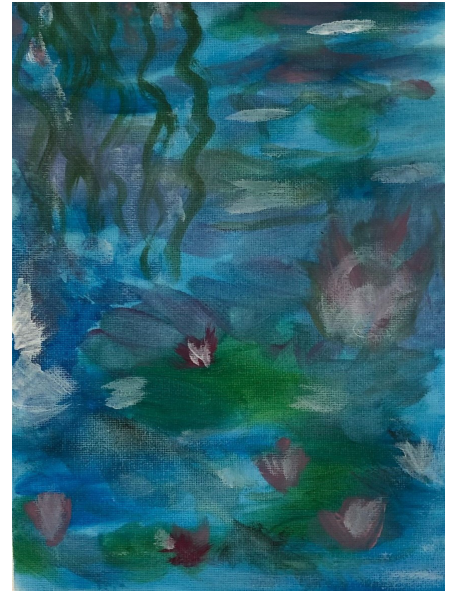
DANIELLE MOWATT
HOD: VISUAL ARTS



Gianna Branco



Azra Nosarka



Jolien Koen

RADIOSMS

“Exciting”, “Innovative”, “Super cool” ...

RadioSMS launched on Monday 10 May. The response from teachers and students alike has been very positive. We look forward to reporting on this exciting new adventure in the future. You can access the station on any device that is connected to the internet. All you need to do is click on the link: <https://radiosms.airtime.pro/>

JESSICA ROYAN
DEPUTY HEAD OF CULTURALS



EQUESTRIAN

SANESA inter-schools qualifier 1 took place on Friday 8 May and Saturday 9 May at Eaton Farm.

11 riders

15 horses

54 classes entered

42 placings

10 first places

4 second places

5 third places

St Mary's is the leader after qualifier 1 in our pool and second overall.

Noticeable achievements of each rider.

Name	Horse	Place	Discipline
Robyn Gush	Baccarat Boy	3 rd	Equitation: Novice 90cm
	Drakken's Ducallian	4 th	Show Jumping: 100cm 2 Phase
Emma Lowndes	Silent Night	4 th	Show Jumping: 80cm 2 Phase
		5 th	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice
Sydney Pollock	Voigtskirch Amarosso	1 st	Dressage: Elementary
		4 th	Performance riding: Level 7
	Voigtskirch Kastellan	5 th	Equitation: Intermediate 100cm
Sienna Blaauw	Gondor UFO	1 st	Equitation: Intermediate 100cm
		1 st	Prix Caprilli Level 6 Advanced test a
		1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 6 Advanced test b
		1 st	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
		2 nd	Level 7 Performance riding
		3 rd	Dressage: Elementary Medium
	Kathmandu	6 th	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
Katherine Franck	Bodenhausen la Chocoletier	1 st	Equitation: Novice 90cm
Riley Bate	Cocorico	1 st	Show Jumping: 90cm A2
		3 rd	Show Jumping: 90cm 2 Phase
Lunathi Mdlungu	Branic Cupidon	1 st	Equitation: Level 2 70cm
	Waterside Double Date	1 st	In-Hand Utility: Level 3
		1 st	Working riding: Level 7
		5 th	Performance riding: Level 7
Erin Jackson	El Vanna	8 th	Dressage: Preliminary
Juliana Haden-Smith	Silkwood Lickity Split	2 nd	Handy Hunter: Level 7 100cm
		3 rd	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
Julia de Villiers	Gypsy Rose	2 nd	Handy Hunter: Level 7 100cm
		4 th	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
Bailey Gresty	Cinnamon Swirl	2 nd	Working Hunter: Level 5 90cm
		3 rd	Show Jumping: 90cm A2
		4 th	Show Jumping: 90cm 2 Phase

Well done to all our riders!



MELANIE BLAIR
TEACHER IN CHARGE OF EQUESTRIAN

GOLF



Gia Raad



Samantha Whateley

Golf is starting to become a regular newsletter item these days and it is exciting to note that we have a couple more girls playing the game. Congratulations to Gia Raad (FI M) who won the B division of the ProShop Gauteng Ladies' Open Championships. She shot two rounds of 81. Samantha Whateley ended 3rd in the A division.

Most exciting was the fact that Samantha (FIV) was invited to play in the Investec SA Women's Open event at Westlake in Cape Town. This event is a Sunshine Ladies' Tour Pro event which is co-sanctioned by the Ladies' European tour. She played on Thursday 13 May and Friday 14 May, but missed the cut to play on the final two days. Well done Sam. We are so proud of you.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

TENNIS

The tennis players have had a busy few weeks on the tennis courts. Four members of our senior tennis team participated in the South African Junior Nationals that took place in Bloemfontein. Moresi Tuoane (F1 A) and Simone Banducci (FIII) won their singles matches in first rounds in the U14 and U16 age groups respectively. Sarah Millard (FV), St Mary’s tennis captain, beat both the number four and number one seeds to reach the final in the U18 singles. Sarah lost in the finals but is congratulated on her outstanding play throughout the tournament. Sarah and her partner also reached the finals of the U18 doubles.

Lilitha Ndungane (FIII) beat the number one seed on her way to the finals where she played faultless tennis to beat her opponent and clinch the South African U16 singles title. The winner of this title is rewarded with a fully paid trip to participate in the WTA Rising Stars Event later this year in China. Lilitha will be competing against players from all over the world. Owing to these outstanding results, Lilitha has also been selected for the South African U16 team which will participate in the prestigious African Junior Championships. Only three players per age group are chosen for this team. This tournament will take place in Egypt in June. We wish Lilitha the best of luck and congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

Two U16 teams from St Mary’s participated in the BNP Rising Stars tournament. This is a new initiative to increase grassroots participation in tennis. Congratulations to Lilitha Ndungane, Simone Banducci, Moresi Tuoane and Natasha Jenkins on winning the Gauteng Central leg of the tournament. The St Mary’s U16 A team now qualify for the provincial finals which will take place in June. St Mary’s beat a strong team from Helpmekaar in the final by two matches to one to win the gold medals. The St Mary’s B team comprising of Tayla Gibbs, Tisanke Mwanza, Alexia Bakos and Ilana Buck also played extremely well to be placed fifth out of ten teams participating in the event. Well done to all the players.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



St Mary’s U16 A team that clinched first place



St Mary’s U16 AB teams for BNP Paribas



Lilitha Ndungane



Sarah Millard U18

MUSE MORNINGS ALL WELCOME

Please join us for our Term II Muse Morning:

Date: Tuesday 1 June

Time: 08h30 to 09h30

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105444526?pwd=d21uYjBXRWw4UkJP2dBG9kMnM1dz09>

Speaker: Esther Chunga

Join Esther as she engages with the challenges faced by our children with schooling in the wake of the pandemic and reflecting on our expectations and how we can manage these.

Esther Chunga is a counselling psychologist and is the clinical director at Ububele Educational and Psychotherapy Trust. Ububele is a community-based organisation that attempts to address the emotional trauma of South Africa's past and the effects of ongoing poverty and inequalities by supporting children and families.

In her role, Esther is very involved in the therapy and assessment clinic, as well as the Parent-Infant Psychotherapy division which offers new-born consultations at a local hospital.

She is also part of community interventions including the Ububele bus outreach project. Esther runs a private practice where she sees adults, children, adolescents and couples.

ED-ADMIN 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 this 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.stmaryschool.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 that 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.