



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

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Our congratulations are extended to Mosa Mdladla for being the 8th student in the history of St Mary's to achieve a *Victrix Honorum* blazer. This blazer is awarded to a student that has an academic honours blazer in addition to two of the following blazers: cultural, service or sports honours. Mosa excelled academically, culturally and consistently served the school. Well done, Mosa.

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

On Monday, we held an assembly that focused on the recipients of academic and sporting significance. It was a privilege to acknowledge three St Mary's girls who have achieved international success in rowing, and the many many St Mary's girls who achieved in the English Olympiad and as a group, set new standards of achievement for schools.

Such assemblies are a joy to lead but they also challenge me - on the one hand I want to applaud and celebrate the excellence of the recipients of awards, and on the other hand, I want to reassure the girls who are not being recognised but who have participated and contributed to enhance our school ethos. What does emerge from such occasions and what I did emphasise at the assembly, is the value of 'lift' that exists in such a performing environment.

What I failed to mention to the girls was that I had read a column by Jo Ellison, columnist, in the *FT Weekend*, where she praised sore losers. She was reflecting on Aryna Sabalenka's rage after losing the US Open to Coco Gauff. What was a private outburst for Sabalenka, was captured on camera and then went viral. Ellison writes, "Recognising our limitations may not be the most fashionable of sentiments in this era of Nike-esque exhortations to live the dream ... less popularly communicated is how much work, hardship and disappointment fulfilling that dream might actually entail." She ends by saying that failure or things not going your way can be used to advantage and, "can be a strangely motivating tool."

I failed to explore such sentiment in the assembly - I am hoping that the girls will read this message.

To end this week, we hosted our chapel gathering and assembly with a focus on Heritage Day, where we acknowledged and celebrated the value of learning in a diverse community.

DEANNE KING
HEADMISTRESS

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In Romans 13: 8, 10-12, St Paul writes to the church in Rome saying:

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ¹⁰ Love does ^{no} harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light

St Paul's message in the above passage can be summed up in the Sesotho word *botho*. *Botho* refers to having a spirit of fellowship, co-operation, selflessness, compassion, tolerance, respect and sharing (Nkomazana 2014). As a South African school, our values encapsulate this spirit of *botho*. Remember that living these values is a measure of the individual's contribution to community life.

The school is committed to embodying Jesus' love for all and his refusal to treat as "other" those whom the society of his day marginalised. Thus, and in line with the school's commitment to be a South African school, St Mary's seeks to encourage respect for, and understanding of, a rich and vibrant diversity within its community, on the part of girls, parents and staff (source: Statement on the Christian identity and ethos of St Mary's).

At St Mary's, our celebration of Heritage Day chapel stresses the importance of tolerance, respect, and accommodation of other people's faiths. We bring our individual experiences and culture, enriching our school community.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

MEET THE SELF-eSTEAM DEPARTMENT



Jane McMurray HoD:
Self-eSTEAM
BA Hons (Wits)



Mariette Adam
BEd (Wits)



Charlene Buddingh
HDE (CTTC)



Emily Dingle
BA Hons (UCT), PGCE (NWU)



Simon Idema
BA Hons (NWU)



Themba Ndimande
BEd 4th year student (Wits)



Lynn Northmore
BA Hons, HDE (Wits)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE OXBRIDGE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Cambridge Tradition Program

The Cambridge Tradition Program was an incredible experience. I made many memories and met people from all over the world. It was the first time traveling to the United Kingdom alone. What a rewarding experience! I had the privilege of spending two weeks in Cambridge, at Jesus College. I participated in a Medical Science course. In the class, I carried out dissections, learned about the heart and cardiovascular system as well as the importance of ethics in the medical field. Medicine is a field of study that I wish to pursue and participating in the course furthered my knowledge and interest in the field. Outside of the classroom, I was able to take part in some of the activities. These included British snack tasting, punting and a silent disco. On other days, I would explore Cambridge city with my friends. One of the highlights of the trip was our day trip to London, where I visited the London Science Museum and did some shopping on Oxford Street. The Cambridge Tradition was fun, interesting and I am grateful to have had such an opportunity.

SALLY-LOUISE INGWE
FORM III



In July, I had the opportunity to live as an Oxford student. I explored areas around Pembroke College and figured out how to live alone and slowly settled into a routine. Meeting my Engineering major teacher made the entire experience real. With my Engineering major, I toured Oxford searching for bridges, listened to a talk by a cosmologist, visited the Oxonian Mini Cooper factory and toured London. Outside of class, I went around Oxford with my friends. Whether it was going to the mall, going on ghost tours, or watching a football match, I knew I would always have my friends by my side even in the most mundane moments. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to make long lasting memories and friendships. Choosing to go on the Oxford Tradition Program was a difficult decision to make, but I am sure I will never regret taking a leap of faith and traveling across the world to learn at one of the oldest teaching institutions in the world.

LEBONE RAMOKGOPA
FORM III

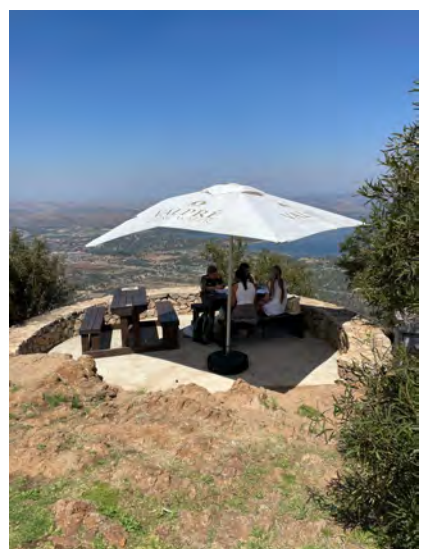


FROM THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

FIV GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO HARTBEESPOORT DAM

As a group, the Form IV Geography girls experienced the Hartbeespoort Dam during an annual fieldtrip. They took the time to become acquainted with the real-life positives and negatives associated with the dam. They went to the dam wall and studied the sluice gates and pollution issues; they went up the cable way and were able to see Cuestas and their scarp and dip slopes in real life. Working on an activity throughout the day, afforded them the opportunity to consolidate their class learning and to participate in collaborative and experiential learning in nature.

JULIA PAHL
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY



FORM III IEB PROBLEM-SOLVING CHALLENGE

On Thursday 14 September, the Form IIIs participated in the IEB Collaborative Problem-Solving Challenge. This challenge is a learning experience, developed by the IEB for secondary school learners. It requires the application of collaborative problem-solving skills to resolve complex problems. The aim of the exercise is to challenge learners to apply both their teamwork skills and ingenuity to develop a set of solutions to given problems that fall within the National Development Plan goals.

The theme for the challenge this year was “A New Type of Learning: Artificial Intelligence in Education”. Teams, grouped at random and consisting of IEB pupils from throughout South Africa, were tasked with addressing a series of questions based on AI in education. The questions dealt with such issues as:

- The ethical concerns around AI tools in education
- A critical analysis of issues around the current system of education and whether schools are adequately preparing students for a world of pervasive AI integration
- The development of creative solutions aimed at incorporating AI effectively into the educational experience
- How AI will impact both the school community as well as the wider community

The girls spent five hours in the Wantage Centre communicating digitally with their allocated groups. While it seemed that the group work element of the task was the most challenging part of the day, the girls thoroughly enjoyed grappling with the given scenarios and produced excellent and thought-provoking solutions to the given problems.

We congratulate the following girls who volunteered: Juhi Baboolal, Kgaugelo Makgato, Reitumetse Molapo, Mishti Patel, Lai Yi Pinkney, Lebone Ramokgopa, Isabella Shaw and Tatum Spencer.



ALISON ANDREW
TEACHER IN CHARGE

FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT



The Form III Visual Arts students have been studying early art from around the world. They have tied this into their practical; exploration of mask making in the clay medium. St Mary's is one of the few schools in the country that has the wonderful resources of both a clay studio and kiln, as well as expert mentoring by Sue Heydenrych.

KAOLIN THOMSON
VISUAL ARTS TEACHER

ATHLETICS

The season has got off to a hot start, both weather and training wise. Coaches Cobus and Philna Kruger have pushed the girls hard since day one and so were pleasantly surprised that, despite tired muscles on Thursday, there were some promising performances. It has been wonderful to welcome a good crop of Form Is. I hope they will commit fully and add real value to the team. We ran our first meet at Brescia, but the weekly meetings are opportunities to work on selecting our best team for inter-high in October.

I thought that this quote would give some inspiration to the hard work being demanded:



QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

TENNIS

The September league is in full swing and all our teams faced tough opponents in their first league match. Well done to the firsts on beating a very strong team from Hoërskool Linden.

Congratulations to Bailey Selvam (Form II) who represented the South African Schools' U15 tennis team. Bailey played against an invitational team and also attended a high-performance training camp that was held in Pretoria. Keep up the great work!

At our first practice of the season, Lilitha Ndungane (Form V) handed over our tennis mascot, St Salsa and the leadership to Tayla Gibbs (Form IV), our tennis captain for the 2023/2024 season. All the best to Tayla, Sarah and Emma for the new season.

Good luck to the St Mary's team that will be participating in the St Anne's/Hilton Doubles tournament this coming weekend.

Results: 12 September

St Mary's A lost to Linden A 28-35

St Mary's B beat Linden B 43-20

St Mary's C lost to Randburg Hoërskool A 14-49

St Mary's D lost to Randburg Hoërskool B 17-46

St Mary's E lost to Redhill A 25-38

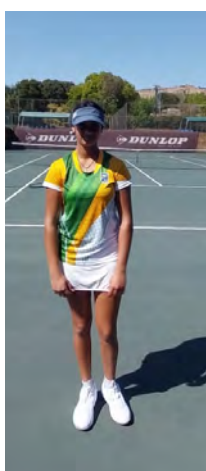
St Mary's F lost to Redhill B 26-37

St Mary's G lost to Assumption A 29-34

RENE PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



St Mary's C team



Bailey Selvam



Tayla Gibbs (2024 Captain) and Lilitha Ndungane (2023 Captain)

ROWING

The St Mary's rowing club is starting off the season strong and determined to win!

The first two weeks of the rowing season have been jam-packed with training on the water, in the gym and on the ergo. A strong foundation is being laid across all age groups for the season to come. The U14s have been courageous and have progressed immensely.

The new parents' cocktail evening was held on campus on Thursday 14 September and it included an address from our head coach, Caitlin Dace and a welcome from the senior opens.

On Saturday 16 September, the rowing club participated in the St Andrew's Indoor Regatta and was delighted with the results from Nicole Ledile and Ziyanda Gwamanda who placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the JW19 2000m individual race. The team event was a masterclass in teamwork, strength and efficiency given by the St Mary's girls as they claimed gold and silver in the JW14 and JW19 races, with the U15 and U16s claiming silver. What an incredible effort from all our girls!

The club is super excited about the World Masters Rowing Championships hosted at Roodeplaat Dam in Pretoria this weekend (21-24 September). Where thousands of international athletes, above the age of 27, will compete for their respective titles. Many St Mary's girls and coaches will be volunteering or spectating at the remarkable event. As this is the first World Rowing event on African soil, come through to Roodeplaat and partake in the massive event!

LILY van LOGGERENBERG

FORM III



RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

The Senior School gymnasts participated in the the Central Gauteng and Gauteng gymnastic competitions during the August school holidays.

The Central Gauteng competition was held on 11 and 12 August. Bontle Kganyago (Form III) placed 3rd overall with bronze medals for hoop and ribbon. Naledi Diale (Form III) placed 1st in the free dance with a gold medal. Valentina Giuricich (Form I) placed 5th in ribbon.

The Gauteng competition was held on 25 and 26 August. Bontle placed 5th overall and Naledi 6th overall. Tshegofatso won a bronze medal for free dance and placed 4th overall.

Bontle, Naledi and Tshegofatso will compete in Level 7 and Level 8 at the South African Gymnastic Games which will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand Saturday 30 September and on Monday 2 October.



Valentina Giuricich, Tshegofatso Modise (Gauteng tracksuit), Bontle Kganyago, Naledi Diale.

South African Gym Games

Good luck to 21 Junior and Senior School gymnasts who will be participating in the South African Gym Games at Wits University from Friday 29 September to Tuesday 3 October.

LINDA GIURICICH
RHYTHMIC GYM COACH



BALLET CLUB



The second run of the Gold Rhino of Mapungubwe ballet has started at State Theatre in Pretoria and our very own Zeinab Kone (From III) will be reprising her role as the princess. The official opening is on the afternoon of Saturday 23 September and will be special treat if you are around over Heritage weekend. Click this link to purchase tickets: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Seating.aspx?itemid=1530904687>

KATHY MITTENDORF
HEAD OF MARKETING

HEALTH CORNER

First aid course

Last term, the first aid team had the opportunity to receive first aid training. Taking the first aid course was not only educational but also empowering. The classroom was a mix of excitement and curiosity as we learned about complex life-saving techniques. The instructor made the sessions and content engaging and understandable. The practical aspect of the course involved learning how to administer CPR and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator to people of all ages. The course emphasised the importance of staying calm when responding to high risk situations and to act as quickly as possible. Although the course was stressful and frightening at times, learning simple things such as how to deal with wounds to spinal injuries felt like gaining a superpower.

TSHINONDIWE TSHIVASE

HEAD OF FIRST AID



LITTLE SAINTS OPEN MORNING

Little Saints invites all the parents to experience a morning in a life of a Little Saints pupil. Please share with all your friends and family.

LITTLE SAINTS AT HOME open morning

Friday 29 September
08h30 to 11h00



All welcome

Join us at any time between 08h30 to 11h00 to find out more about Little Saints, St Mary's School, Waverley's pre-preparatory school for both girls and boys for Grades 000 and 0.

Parking will be available in our stop-and-drop, off Burn Street.

Should you require further information, please contact Nwabisa on 011 531 1888.



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ST MARY'S GOLF DAY

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St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

Date: Thursday 19 October 2023
Price: R4200 per fourball, includes greenfees, halfway and dinner
Parkview Golf Course: T-off from 11h30
 Donations of prizes will be most welcome, please email
lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za
 Click [here](#) to book your fourball
All proceeds to go to the St Mary's Foundation

SIZANANI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The Sizanani Mentorship Programme would like to invite you to join the fun fair on Saturday 7 October. Proceeds from the event will go towards the activities and funding for students of Alexandra who are part of St Mary's Ikusasa Lethu Programme.

Booking before or by Monday 25 September.

KIMBERLY MKHUSHULWA
PROGRAMME MANAGER



ED-ADMIN PARENT PORTAL

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

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

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