



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

After the announcement last night of the water polo team to represent South Africa at this year's Olympics, which includes two St Mary's Old Girls and our head water polo coach, St Mary's is extremely proud to celebrate our five future Olympians going to Tokyo in July. The St Mary's team are:

(Top left to right): representing water polo - Amica Hallendorff (class of 2010), Daniela Passoni (class of 2017), St Mary's head water polo coach Kelsey Thomson (White)

(Bottom left to right): representing hockey - Lilian du Plessis (class of 2010), Lisa-marie Deetlefs (class of 2005)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

As we experience the onslaught of the third wave of Covid-19, it is worth recalling the words of Dr Karin van der Merwe whom I quoted in my letter to the community last week, "It's time to ramp up our Covid response with patience, kindness, self-control, and self-sacrifice. These are principles that get lost in our fast-paced world. Covid is teaching us to put others before ourselves, to wait it out and to act for the human good. These are the values we would like to pass onto our children too."

I thank our families for supporting the school's decision to learn and teach remotely and to delay the Senior School examinations. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you on changes to the arrangements. The plan at present is to begin examinations for Form I - IV on Monday 5 July 2021. We are confident that the scheduled academic programme for Term II will be comprehensively covered by the end of term.

I have been privileged to attend the virtual National Coalition of Girls' Schools' (NCGS) conference this week together with six of our teachers. The conference theme has been "Belonging", which is especially meaningful for us during Youth and Pride month. This is a truly global gathering of girls' schools with a focus on educational research, professional development, advocacy for girls' education and networking.

It is affirming to be amongst educators from across the world and to focus on best practice in girls' education. The St Mary's team delivered a presentation, which was well-received, and we have been encouraged by the shared nature of the challenges that confront schools across the globe. Some of these include issues of social justice, mental health and well-being, social media and poor levels of reading. St Mary's is a member of the NCGS, an American organisation, and we benefit from its research, resources, and advocacy for girls' education.

This is the last newsletter that will feature a message from Revd Claudia. I am certain that the community joins me in wishing Revd Claudia well as she begins a new chapter in her life. Claudia has been a pillar of strength in our community, and she has enthusiastically immersed herself in school life over the past five years. I have valued her counsel, her commitment to our school's ethos, and her willingness to support all aspects of school management. Her farewell will be quiet and simple owing to circumstances but as an Old Girl and past chaplain she remains a member of our community. I look forward to announcing the appointment of a new chaplain within the next few weeks.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to [his disciples], "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

- Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)

As we find ourselves in the midst of the third wave of the pandemic, perhaps we feel caught in a time warp - at that moment where the disciples tried to wake Christ up, saying "do you not care that we are perishing?". Christ responds, "have you no faith?" I re-read Pope Francis' words in [Ubi et Orbi](#) (27 March 2020): "Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you." Pope Francis reminds us that we are all in the boat, in the storm, together. Let us also be reminded that we are in the boat together with Christ. And let us not underestimate Christ.

This is my last newsletter article as your chaplain. I give thanks for the blessing to me of having been chaplain in this community, and I give thanks for you. You remain in my prayers, as I hope I remain in yours.

*God our protector, your Son stilled the storm and restored calm:
stand with us through all life's storms,
and give us courage to protect those who face danger,
that all may know you as their stronghold and hope,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

REV. CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



Bishop Steve Moreo confirmed our 2020 confirmands, in a beautiful service of Evening Prayer on Tuesday 8 June 2021

A TIME FOR GIVING

It is hard to imagine that it has been a year or more since we have been able to visit NGOs or go on community service trips. While we miss these opportunities, we have had to shift our thinking and come up with alternatives.

We have been astounded by the generosity of our community. We are aware of so many families who have made the effort to contribute to feeding schemes over the past year.

The response to the muffin-making initiative for Ikusasa Lethu has been overwhelming. This has been a direct way for the girls to contribute to our Saturday school while learning to bake and earn some much-needed service hours.

The money earned from the matric dance walkdown went towards toiletry packs for those in need and, in combination with a number of schools, we were able to put together a large donation. The rest of the walkdown money has been spent on wool for the knitting of squares. Balls of wool will be handed out to the girls during the examinations. Please encourage your daughter to collect a ball of wool. The eco-brick initiative is ongoing too. We have found two communities that are using these bricks and as a result we are starting our collection from scratch, so please continue to recycle.

For Mandela Day this year, we will be spending 67 minutes putting together a “meal in a bag”. In order for this to be a success, we would like to request a R20 donation from each girl. This can be given to her mentor teacher. We will then do shopping in bulk for the occasion. As in past years, we will also be conducting a secondhand clothing collection in aid of Ikusasa Lethu. Bags will be distributed during examinations for the girls to fill and bring back. These donations can be dropped off at the Ikusasa Lethu office or in Room 31.

Every one of these donations makes a difference in someone’s life. We are mindful that this has been a tough time for many and we are therefore especially grateful for your generosity.

LYNN NORTHMORE
HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE, HOD: LIFE ORIENTATION

ACCOUNTING

PROVERBO



2021 National High School Olympiad

On Wednesday 12 May, a total of 31 Accounting girls from Form III to Form V wrote the first round of the National Accounting Olympiad. Five thousand learners from more than 300 high schools participated in this National Olympiad.

Congratulations to the following girls who attained 60% and above which allows them to participate in the second round of the National Accounting Olympiad, which will be taking place on Wednesday 4 August.

Form V

Annika Gertenbach
Kutloano Shuenyane
Kiara Towell
Julia Yates

Form IV

Tinotenda Chirimuta
Zamantungwa Khumalo
Zahraa Koor
Kristy Leonard
Xenia Theorides
Melissa Welch

Form III

Yana Cai
Reece McGregor
Jessica Nobela
Kirsten Roome

We wish them all the best for the next round.

WENDY IEVERS
HOD: ACCOUNTING

GEOGRAPHY

The Form IIs have been studying the effect of anthropogenic waste on oceans as part of the Geography curriculum. Case studies and YouTube clips which focused on plastic in our environment were discussed and the section culminated in the girls being asked to design an appropriate logo and visual material for a shopping bag to create awareness of this issue. This task demanded their creative input, as one of the requirements was to make use of recycled materials.

CINDY LEN
GEOGRAPHY TEACHER



The South African National Geography Olympiad took place on Tuesday 18 May 2021. We are thrilled that St Mary's placed in the top three schools nationally, and will go through to the semi-finals to compete for the chance to represent South Africa internationally. The Olympiad was by all accounts stringent and met with international standards. Congratulations are extended to the following girls for being selected to represent St Mary's in the second round:

Jessica Curtis
Dalila Spinazze
Mira Kathawaroo
Tyrah Cook

MEG DEVINE
HOD: GEOGRAPHY



Jessica Curtis



Dalila Spinazze



Mira Kathawaroo



Tyrah Cook

AFRIKAANS

St Teresa's School, and all the St Mary's matric Afrikaans pupils sat huddled in The Edge, one seat apart, as we adhered to social distancing protocols and patiently waited for the show to begin, unaware that our minds were going to be blown away. Blackout and action: "Paul, sê asseblief vir my dis alles leuens."

PIT Productions entertained us with their incredibly talented cast which put on a riveting production of our setwork book *Asem* (Fanie Viljoen) and a few of the poems that we are studying.

Two of my favourite poems performed were *Sterrekyker* by Franci Greyling and *Sondagaande* by Fanie Viljoen. Both were achieved by manipulating shadows and silhouettes behind a sheet with light. We were able to visualise the birds of prey peering in through our windows on a gloomy Sunday afternoon, and the man on the moon receiving the poets' letters. It was an extremely effective performance that visually presented the poems in a way we will never forget.

The highlight of *Asem* was the "spanning" the actors and actresses were able to create between Barries, Olga, and Paul. The three main characters were exceptionally portrayed through the use of humour and props, and PIT Productions brought the story to life. The actors passionately revealed the storyline while not giving away the huge plot twist, and they emphasised the journey Barries took to get revenge on his father who left him as a young boy.

It was truly an unforgettable evening that made IEB Afrikaans much more accessible to the matrics.

ASHLEY SIMONATO
FORM V



The cast: Zak Hendrikz, Arno Meyer and Lee Visagie

SLAM POETRY

Now we all have our flavours. Literature is by no means an absolute taste. So if there isn't already a deep seated desire to connect points within yourself to the world outside of your body, if one does not see the point of imagination, of colours and textures in all written words... then slam poetry, I think, is not for you.

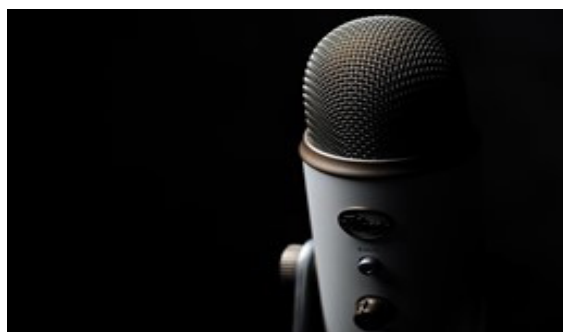
If it so happens that regardless of whether or not you pursue a career in poetry (yes a career is possible), you are still open to new ways of reflecting, expressing or just communicating with a touch of magic, then you are invited to discover this path with us.

By definition, slam poetry is recognised as a competitive version of spoken word. This means that the poet recites before an audience and panel of judges. They are assessed based on a few key factors: the chemistry between them and the audience, their relatability and ability to hold the audience's attention in context, how well the poem is written and finally, fair representation.

Throughout the year, we run sessions for an hour a week. Each one covers writing and performance as a segment. Our practicals include submissions of work produced in class for publication and live sessions hosted at school. At the end of the year, a collection is compiled serving as our very own anthology.

Seeing as we are human beings and so driven by the parts of us that aren't tangible, the ability to articulate through word and body the experiences that make us who we are remains vital. So even if not poetry, find your language of expression.

BELITA ANDRE
SLAM POETRY FACILITATOR



POTTERY

The Form I and II girls have been enjoying pottery classes during 9th lesson on Mondays. The girls have used the techniques of pinching, coiling and slabbing to transform lumps of clay into beautiful objects.

In the first term, the girls spent many hours making either an elephant, hippo or rhino.

In the second term, the girls have had fun making their own unique pinch pot and pressing plant forms into slabs to form a platter.

SUE HEYDENRYCH
POTTERY CLASS FACILITATOR



MUSIC

The start of this year's Trinity Term brought enormous excitement in the Music department. The relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions meant we were finally able to meet again to make live music together. While the string players had been involved in several special performances during the first term, caution prevented wind playing before May. So it was with huge anticipation and enjoyment that the orchestra, clarinet ensemble, flute ensemble, saxophone ensemble and jazz band met again at this term's beginning.

Aware of the need to continue to socially-distance, the orchestra enjoyed several Tuesday evening rehearsals of ensemble playing in different venues around the Senior School campus. Despite the wintry evenings and open windows, we had several soul-restoring rehearsals in which everyone's relief and joy in making music again together was palpable. We also all came together to record music for the Patronal Festival. When load-shedding struck, we were not deterred! Instead, the girls lit candles and played from the heart as the sun set behind us, beautifully illuminating the chapel's stained-glass windows.



The jazz band also came together to record a few songs, featuring our dynamic matric vocalists Erin Parkes and Siphokazi Ndlovu. Jazz band leaders of 2021, Tessa Dröge and Lara Stipinovich inspired their musical team with comradery and enthusiasm. It was heart-warming to hear the girls again filling The Edge with live music. These are precious memories as the pandemic's third wave in South Africa takes hold.

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES
MUSIC TEACHER, HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES



We congratulate Danika Neuhoff (Form III) on passing her Trinity grade 4 virtual piano examination with distinction. Her video performances were delivered with assurance, focus and a highly convincing level of personal investment with an ability to move seamlessly between different styles. Well done, Danika!

DUDLEY TROLLOPE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

OLD GIRLS



St Mary's first ever Dame: our congratulations are extended to St Mary's Old Girl, Prue Leith (class of 1958), who was recognised in the Queen of England's Birthday Honours. Prue, who was made an OBE in 1989 and a CBE in 2010 was given a damehood recently.

NETBALL

Old Girl, Caroline Paul, who matriculated in 2019, has been studying and playing netball at the University of Pretoria. Caroline has been selected for the U21 A Tshwane team. Holly McDonald, who is currently in matric and is the netball captain, has also been selected for the U21 A Ekurhuleni team.

The selected teams are to compete in the Gauteng Championships and the U21 Spar National Championships. Unfortunately, the Gauteng Championships have been postponed until August 2021. The Spar National Championships will take place in December 2021. Good luck to both girls.



Caroline Paul



Holly McDonald (FV)

PALESA MASINGA
HEAD OF NETBALL

ROWING

Owing to the closing of St Mary’s and the return to remote learning, rowing training as a group and on the water was curtailed. This did not stop our off-season training though! The girls have been following a programme including running, weights, and ergo sessions. Training alone is quite tough but we have been helping each other by doing sessions together on a GoogleMeet, sending selfies on our various WhatsApp groups after we have completed a session, and sending a motivational quote at the beginning of the week on our main club group. We are excited to continue with our training and getting ready for the upcoming season!

“Glory is in the team, not the individual.” - Sean Sullivan.

CLARE KEEGAN
FORM III

TENNIS

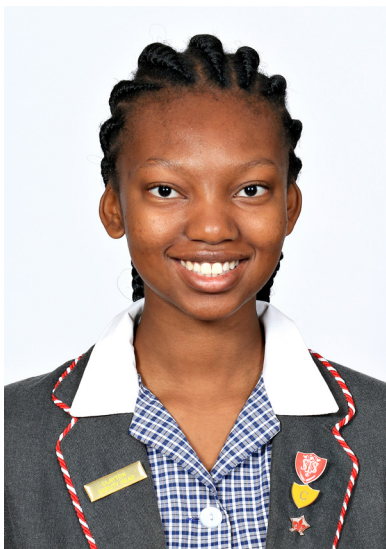
- Congratulations to Sarah Millard for reaching the finals of the women’s singles event at the Gauteng East Grand Prix tournament that was held over the past two weekends. Lilitha Ndungane also participated in the same event and placed sixth in the women’s singles. Sarah and Lilitha teamed up in the doubles and lost in a close match in the semi-finals.
- Moroesi Tuoane won her first round match but then lost to the number seven seed in the Girls U16 age group. Congratulations to all these players. Keep up the hard work and dedication.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS

ALLAN GRAY FELLOWSHIP



Thandiswa Nkosi



Mosa Selela

St Mary's congratulates both Thandiswa Nkosi and Mosa Selela, class of 2020, who have been awarded a prestigious Allan Gray Fellowship. Thandiswa achieved three distinctions in her final matriculation examinations (English, isiZulu and Dramatic Arts); her overall average was 78%. Mosa achieved two distinctions (Life Orientation and Dramatic Arts) and her overall average was 72%.

The Fellowship covers full tuition, books, residence and a living allowance for an undergraduate degree at a South African university.

This is the ninth time in the past ten years in which pupils from St Mary's have been awarded Allan Gray Fellowships.

KATHY MITTENDORF
HEAD OF MARKETING

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.