



St Mary's 1st team hockey and spectators singing *Oh when the Saints*. (see page 7 for more details)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The first term has ended on a good note for our school. We hosted a successful 22nd hockey festival. Not only did St Mary's reach the final for the first time since 2016, but we also had a large crowd of spectators and received positive feedback from our visitors. Eunice High School triumphed out of the 32 top teams from across Southern Africa.

The festival is an important event for our school. It is a chance for the entire community to work together - staff, students and parents all play a significant role in hosting the event. The matches are an exciting display of both sport and sportsmanship, while the atmosphere on campus is inspiring. I thank Quix, director of sport, who leads the planning, organisation and running of this event. I also thank all sponsors of the festival, and in particular Standard Bank, for their support of girls' sport.

At the end of term, we all look forward to a well-deserved break with time to relax and recharge. It is also a time to thank and acknowledge individuals who have contributed to our school. We extend gratitude to Andile Mazwai, deputy chairperson, for his significant contribution to the school Board over many years. We have benefitted from his guidance and commitment to excellence at St Mary's. Lara Rammutla leaves the Open Door to take a position at St John's Preparatory. Megan Devine, HoD Geography, has also accepted a position at St John's College after almost 10 years at St Mary's. Thabo Kunutu, Information Technology teacher, is leaving teaching to run his own business and Bianca Parirenyatwa, Arts and Culture teacher, has been appointed as the head of Visual Arts at St David's Marist, Inanda.

Term II will begin with final preparations for the Senior School musical, *Naledi*. It promises to be a showcase of the performing arts and an excellent production.

Easter is a time to reflect on love, on forgiveness and renewal. May Easter offer this to all in our community.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I want to start by telling a story.

My favourite children's story is by Sindiwe Magona and it's called *The Best Meal Ever*. This is a sad yet relatable story about *ho e pata ka boroko* (to hide in sleep) (Moleleki 2023). It is set in a South African township in Cape Town, Gugulethu. It tells the story of Siziwe. Siziwe is the eldest and is tasked with looking after her younger siblings while her mother is away caring for her ill grandfather and her father is away at sea. One day, Siziwe makes the comment: "Mother's monsters are very hungry, but there isn't any food left in the cupboard and all of the money has run out" Siziwe has to do something. She puts a pot on the primus stove and filled it with water, promising 'mother's monsters' that this will be the best meal ever, the meal of hope. She stirs the pot until they fall asleep. Before she goes to sleep, she prays; thanking God for the meal they had and asking for a better meal tomorrow. The following morning one of Mother's friends brings food for Siziwe and her brothers and sisters. The 'Best Meal Ever' was a meal of hope.

This children's story inspires us to look at our community and realise we are both Siziwe and mother's friend, we are always going to be both burdens and carriers. We are called to be a community of hope.

This term has been about community. We have had joys and sorrows.

The following line from the *Easter Proclamation* captures a bit of what this term has been like for us as a community: ...a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God (An Anglican Prayer 1989:206).

St Mary's School wishes you, our community a blessed Easter.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

MEET THE EdTECH AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS



Mariette Adam
EdTech Leader
BEd (Wits)



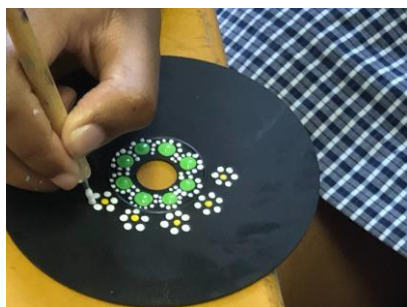
Themba Ndimande
BEd 4th year student(Wits)



Lauren Frost
HoD: Technology
BHuishEd (Stellenbosch)

FORM Is AND IIs DOTTING

In the early morning lessons this term some Form I and II students chose dotting. This is a meditative process. We used old CDs and recycled them into a hanging ornament. Some girls also dotted wooden templates.



CHARLENE BUDDINGH
TEACHER IN CHARGE

FROM GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Keeping cool about climate change

Climate change is a pressing global issue. The concept is well known, but it is vastly complex, with blame for many events being ascribed to it, and people feeling individually powerless to stop or change it. It is not just adults who feel its weight of impact. Our children and teens are also experiencing major anxiety and stress, especially about the future. According to a recent 10-country survey on this subject, published in *The Lancet Planetary Health Journal*, 75% of children and young people (age 16-25 years), described the future as “frightening” (Hickman C et al. Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: a global survey. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2021; 5: e863-e873).

The effects of climate change, including phenomena such as rising sea levels, flooding and extreme weather, are becoming more frequent and visible every day. Cyclone Freddy just awarded the dubious honour of the longest lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded (at the time of writing it had reached day 32, surpassing Typhoon John in 1994) is a perfect example of extreme weather which we are experiencing very close to home.

Teaching this subject can be tricky. Climate change can be particularly overwhelming for children as they are still developing their sense of self and an understanding of the world around them. The enormity of the implications of climate change, and the associated uncertainty of the future, can lead to feelings of helplessness and anxiety. As a result, as educators, we need to be sensitive to the constant messages of gloom and doom. We have a responsibility, as teachers, parents and caregivers, to provide accurate information and practical solutions in order to help our children feel empowered. We need to help them create a sense of agency over their futures. Encouraging recycling, reducing waste and conserving water, although seemingly small actions, can help bring optimism and a sense of some hope. We need to listen to the concerns of our students and encourage them to act bravely and creatively in problem-solving.

Just recently, the Grade 11 Geography girls brought some light to this rather depressing and stressful topic using gamification. Groups of girls invented, designed and built various games, each focusing on a different climate change issue. Although this topic is a significant and serious issue for their generation, it helps to learn when a little bit of fun can be added to the mix.



MEGAN DEVINE
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

MODEL AFRICAN UNION

Between 15-19 March this year, 15 St Mary's students, including myself, attended the African Leadership Academy Model African Union conference. We took on the roles of delegates who represented various countries from across the African continent, in the hope of finding solutions to some of Africa's major setbacks.

The African Union is split into many different organs and committees, each dealing with different issues pertinent to Africa. Our conference included a selection of committees, and country delegations were tasked with thinking of solutions to the issues raised in terms of the committee focus, and also in terms of the overarching theme of the conference: “An Inclusive Africa: A Future for All”.

To find solutions to the issues, delegates engaged in debates with one another, forming alliances and discussing critical topics. Eventually, each committee came up with a resolution paper which was then presented at the end of the conference during the Assembly of the Heads of State, which convened to determine which resolutions to pass. Amazingly, all the resolutions provided at this year's conference were passed.

This experience was definitely a highlight of my year. I met a diverse group of individuals who altered my view, not only of Africa but also of the world. I further developed many different skills such as report drafting, debating and interviewing. One afternoon we had the privilege of an outing to Constitution Hill, which was both interesting and informative. This excursion made me realise how unique and special our South African constitution is.

This year's Model African Union conference taught us all so much about ourselves, one another, and the globe. I am excited about the prospect of attending another one of these conferences, in the hope of learning how to understand and contribute to the continent we call 'home'.



Maryam Khan
Form IV

FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

HISTORY EXPERIENCES TERM I

Form II outing to the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

The Form IIs visited the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre in March. Our girls were given the opportunity to learn from both the permanent exhibition that explores the chronology and nature of the Holocaust as well as the current temporary exhibition called, *Seeing Auschwitz*.

The permanent exhibition features an impressive display of primary and secondary sources from the Holocaust. The duration of the exhibition is intentional and moving, with each phase of the Holocaust explained through the text, artifacts and design of the space. Our girls noted the subtle but impactful choices that make the museum particularly effective. For example, in the section that describes 'Jewish life before the war,' the room is laid out to feel like a home and includes scenes of domestic life with images of ordinary school children and carefree families. In contrast, the section that describes the Nazi Party's rise to power is designed to feel smaller, tighter and more rigid and includes the colour red throughout. *Seeing Auschwitz* was a particularly interesting exhibition as it gave our Form II pupils the opportunity to practice their photograph analysis skills and explore a series of primary sources.

The temporary exhibition showcases over 100 images taken from the perspectives of perpetrator, victim and bystander. The central question posed throughout the exhibition and with which our girls grappled was, can a source of history ever really be neutral?

Form III Rwandan Genocide Workshop

The Form III topic this term was the Rwandan genocide. In class, we covered the events of the genocide and examined the concepts of causation as well as accountability, justice and reconciliation.

On Wednesday 22 March, our Form IIIs had the privilege of participating in a workshop focused on the Rwandan genocide. The experience was run by educator, Catherine Boyd and genocide survivor, Christine Elsie Niwemfura. The day included the viewing of a documentary, analysis of testimony from a wide range of perspectives - from Tutsi victims, Hutu perpetrators and bystanders such as the United Nations - and finally a talk by Niwemfura where she shared her own harrowing account of April 1994. Our girls also investigated the role of propaganda in the genocide by examining translated transcripts from *Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines* (RTL), a popular radio station that promoted the ideas of Hutu hardliners.

The day was a difficult but meaningful one.

Form V Subject Focus Day

Our annual Form V subject day regained a sense of normalcy this year as we were able to venture out of the classroom and visit both the Apartheid Museum and Constitutional Hill. This has not been possible for the past two years owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and the temporary closure of museums in Johannesburg.

The Form V field trip began at the Apartheid Museum where our girls spent three hours exploring the various exhibits and artifacts on display and answering a series of questions. The Form Vs seemed to immediately understand the symbolism of the museum and many of the girls commented on how one is taken on, not only a chronological journey, but also on an emotional one. From the vantage point at the museum's entrance, our girls noted the legacy of mining and segregation visible in the Johannesburg skyline and the overgrown, abandoned mine dumps. The Form V History pupils engaged meaningfully with the content here - they analysed Ernest Cole images from the 1950s, engaged with Steve Biko's SASO newsletters of the 1970s and listened to difficult TRC hearings from the 1990s.

We also visited Constitutional Hill. Here we focused primarily on two areas of the vast complex: 'Number Four', the section of the prison reserved for black men and the 'Women's Jail', where activists such as Fatima Meer and Albertina Sisulu were imprisoned. Our Form Vs learned about the history of the Old Fort, the segregation and hierarchy that existed even in prison and the distressing accounts of the inmates. The girls reflected on the past and present functions of the site and used their analysis skills to debate why certain aspects of society should be memorialised and recorded.

The 2023 History Subject Focus Day was certainly a success and served as a reminder that much of our recent South African history does not tell the story of strangers but rather tells the story of ourselves.

ALISON ANDREW
HEAD OF HISTORY



FROM THE DRAMATIC ARTS DEPARTMENT

It's been quite a term - filled to the brim with sports, cultural activities and academics. As the term comes to an end, it's truly wonderful to see how the stage has impacted so many girls at St Mary's: from watching fabulous plays on our excursions with the senior Dramatic Arts students to attending workshops run by renowned theatre practitioners and even spending countless hours in The Edge rehearsing for our very own upcoming production, *Naledi*.

A real highlight of the term, however, was this year's house plays. As with every year, the houses are given a theme with which to create a short work of theatre. This year's theme was *melodrama*. The houses were also given a random adjective and genre by a spinning wheel that had to inform the content and style of their plays.

The result was a beautiful evening filled with immeasurable laughter. The girls mounted four individual plays, and every aspect of the production - from scriptwriting, directing and acting, down to lighting and costume design, was done by the girls themselves.

Phelps House took the title with their outstanding melodramatic mystery play - *Blues Clues*, written and directed by Alice Thiel (Form IV).

Entle Sepeng (Form III), a Phelps House cast member, took the title of

best actress. Well done to all and thank you for keeping the theatre



Entle Sepeng (Best Actress)



Phelps: *Blues Clues*



Clayton: *How did I end up Here?*



Furse: *Wedding of Olympus*



Karney: *Trouble in Paradise*

KLAUS JANSEN VAN VUUREN
HEAD OF DRAMATIC ARTS

THE ST MARY'S HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The annual St Mary's Hockey Festival, brought to you by Standard Bank, took place from 30 March to 2 April. The 25 min match format is extremely tough and players need to be firing from the first whistle. With the short nature of the matches, a piece of brilliance or one mistake could be the difference between winning or losing.

The tournament started in 2000 with just 12 teams and over the years has grown to include 32 teams. It has become the most prestigious school hockey tournament in the country. We thank Standard Bank for their continued support of school girls' sport.

St Mary's is lucky to be able to enter two teams into the tournament, which is great for exposing players to the tough demands of first-team competition. The festival team is coached by Taryn de Winnaar and Vicki Jonker. Taryn had the following to say about the festival teams' performances in the tournament; "The festival team certainly did their coaches and supporters proud! We enjoyed four demanding days of hockey and despite the mixed results, the players can hold their heads up high. The consistent improvement and growth of the girls as hockey players and as young women are remarkable. It was a privilege working with this group of players and I look forward to watching them progress this season. With renewed confidence and this kind of experience under their belts, there is no doubt that their level of play will go from strength to strength!"

The first team also had a very successful tournament. We capped off two tough days of pool matches with a good win against Paarl Gimnasium, one of the tournament favourites. With these results, we progressed to the Top 12 round. The second-round match results were as follows:

Durban Girls College: 2-2
Clarendon: 2-0
Eunice: 0-2

These results meant the first team had done enough to qualify for the semi-finals which was an outstanding achievement. The girls played extremely well in the semi-final and ended up beating Collegiate 1-0 in the last 25 seconds of the golden goal. The final would be a repeat of the previous day's pool game against Eunice, who ousted defending champions Oranje in their semi-final. The last time the St Mary's 1st team made the final was in 2016.

The final was very competitive but unfortunately, another penalty stroke was to decide the title this - time the result did not go our way. The final result was 1-0 for Eunice. We are all extremely proud of the performances of this team over 12 tough matches.

What makes this tournament so special, particularly for the St Mary's teams, is the unbelievable support of the school community. The spirit squad and all the girls who come to support really make this festival the success that it is. The atmosphere they create is one that visiting teams and parents go away talking about, not to mention the lift that it gives the St Mary's teams every time the girls take the field.

Organising a festival of this magnitude does not just happen. Ms Quix, with the help of her hockey festival committee and the St Mary's parents, is instrumental in the slick running of this tournament. Without the support of the St Mary's staff, both academic and support, there would not be a festival. We really appreciate all the hard work that is put in to make this festival so special.

On a very special final note, this festival was the brainchild of Ros Howell. She has seen it grow over the past 22 years, always ensuring its success. Thank you, Ros, you will be missed. We salute you!

CINDY BROWN
HEAD OF HOCKEY



SWIMMING

The following girls took part in the South African National Junior swimming championships and fared extremely well.

Juliette van Vught - U14

Two finals:

9th in 50m and 100m breaststroke.

Hannah Rigby - U15

Five finals:

14th in 400m freestyle, 4th in 400m individual medley, 8th in 200m individual medley, 11th in 800m freestyle and 9th in 200m breaststroke

Grace Morris - U15

Five finals including three medals:

Silver in 200m backstroke, bronze in 100m backstroke, bronze in 50m backstroke, 4th in 50m freestyle and 9th in 100m freestyle and 9th in 100m freestyle

Kiera Cloete - U16

Three finals including two medals:

Silver in 50m breaststroke, bronze in 100m breaststroke and 6th in 200m breaststroke

The following swimmers have qualified for the SA Senior Nationals Swimming Championships taking place during the April Holidays at Newton Park Port-Elizabeth: Olivia Krüger, Kiera Cloete, Grace Morris, Hannah Rigby and Marie-Ella Maske. We wish them all the best of luck.



Olivia Krüger



Kiera Cloete



Grace Morris



Hannah Rigby



Marie-Ella Maske

NETBALL

The St Andrew's Netball Festival has always been a tough and testing four-day netball tournament for our first team. This year was no different; the girls were nervous and excited to be part of the netball festival squad participating in this festival.

The festival started off with a very tough first day, with St Mary's playing four strong netball schools. The first match was against Hoërskool Krugersdorp, and the team managed to hold their own in the match until the very last seconds. The team was pleased with their performance, but the level and intensity of the match shocked the players' bodies. The next three matches on Thursday were against St Stithians College, Beaulieu College and Durban Girls College. After a tough first day on the netball courts, the team returned the following day to play against Fourways High School, Kingswood College and St Anne's College. The team closed off the day with a good win, having found their rhythm on the court.

On Saturday, a new tournament started with teams now shuffled in different sections according to their pool standing. St Mary's played in the Bowl Section. The team started off well with a close win against Kingsmead College. The winning streak continued in matches against St Peter's College, Uplands College and Diocesan School Grahamstown. With four wins in the bag, the team's spirits were high and aiming for the Bowl finals.

The final day of the festival saw St Mary's play the last two pool matches against Waterstone College and The Wykeham Collegiate. With six wins, St Mary's qualified for the Bowl finals against Fourways High School. Having lost against Fourways High School on Friday during pool stages, we definitely went into the final match with the determination to redeem our team from the previous loss. The match entertained the crowd and kept everyone on the edge of their seats with both teams performing at their best. St Mary's won the Bowl finals by one goal.

Please see the festival results below:

St Mary's vs Hoërskool Krugersdorp	lost 15 - 18
St Mary's vs St Stithians	lost 5 - 19
St Mary's vs Beaulieu College	drew 14 - 14
St Mary's vs Durban Girls College	lost 8 - 21
St Mary's vs Fourways High School	lost 14 - 19
St Mary's vs Kingswood College	lost 12 - 14
St Mary's vs St Anne's College	won 19 - 8
St Mary's vs Kingsmead College	won 14 - 12
St Mary's vs St Peter's College	won 14 - 12
St Mary's vs Uplands College	won 20 - 9
St Mary's vs Diocesan School	won 15 - 9
St Mary's vs Waterstone College	won 14 - 3
St Mary's vs The Wykeham Collegiate	won 18 - 12
Finals	
St Mary's vs Fourways High School	won 11 - 10



PALESA MASINGA
HEAD OF NETBALL

ROWING NEWS

The 2022/2023 season will go down as the golden season. The St Mary's rowing club achieved incredible results by winning the Gauteng Schools' Rowing Championships, the South African Schools' Rowing Championships as well as Boat Race. Constant training, camps and team spirit brought each crew across the line to bring home results that of which they should be proud. In every regatta, the athletes managed to improve and perform to their best. The club became united as the season progressed through war cries and breaking out into spontaneous dance parties on camp. Many laughs were shared, and lifetime memories were created. This is an exciting prospect for the rowing club and for those interested in the World Rowing Masters taking place for the first time in Africa at Roodeplaat Dam in September 2023.

The annual rowing dinner was truly a special night with moving speeches from each age group, reminiscing the season that has passed. Tears were shed for the senior opens and for those leaving as the impact they have made on this club is memorable. The dinner was followed by an awards ceremony, to commend the athletes who performed to the best of their abilities in both coxing and rowing, to those who have improved considerably, for team spirit and for the most covenanted award-the best crab trophy.

Congratulations to all those who received awards. This dinner was a time for both the girls and the parents to reflect on why the early morning and long drives are worth it in the end. A big thank you to our captains' mom, Emer, Christine and Susie, for making it an evening to remember. It is clear that this season we really did, go home!

SOPHIA BABAYA
FORM IV



Elizabeth Kingwill



Isabella Shaw



Kealeboga Ramantsi



Lily van Loggerenberg



Nicole Ledlie



Nokukhanya Mthombeni

Congratulations to the following girls on their selection to the South African Schools' Rowing Union U16 Development squad.

The St Mary's coaches selected are Makungu Masangu and Paige Crooks.

The SASRU development rowing tour takes place after the South African Schools' Rowing Championships and selects the best U16s from the single scull and pair events. The intention of the tour is to create a platform for U16 athletes across the country to enter a high-performance training environment with specific races against international competition in the UK.

The squad departs on 25 April and will compete at the Wallingford, Scullery and Bedford Regattas. There will be interaction with the various international athletes and coxswains to allow for a good discussion about the demands of higher performance, the expectations and how to excel further.

Gauteng Junior Rowing Squad:



Tessa Brugman



Sinead Erasmus



Ziyanda Gwamanda



Reece McGregor



Danelia Price Hughes

Congratulations girls on your selection!

The Gauteng Squad will be preparing at a two-week training camp in Tzaneen Dam during the April holidays, followed by racing at the South African Senior Rowing Championships. The aim at these stages is to be fast enough to qualify for an invitation to the National Selection Regatta which takes place in May.

We wish these girls all the best as they prepare for the opportunity of a lifetime!

Bring pride and passion!

CAITLIN DACE
HEAD OF ROWING

HOPE TALKS

On Wednesday 22 March, the HOPE committee hosted its first HOPE Talks for 2023.

CJ Kujenga, a St Mary's parent of two girls in Junior School, and an elective single mother gave an honest and insightful account of her journey to motherhood. She captured her audiences' attention with stories from her podcast, *Journey to Mother* that offered humour, real-life experiences and conversations with other people who had embarked on a similar journey to hers. Her audience came away with a newfound respect for, and knowledge of, the so-called "unconventional" or "unspoken of" experiences of people who yearn for parenthood and who contemplate a different journey to achieve this purpose.

HOPE committee member, St Mary's Old Girl, and current parent, Natalie Haarhoff, facilitated this evening. Her questions to CJ were poignant and showed a true understanding of the topic covered. A truly memorable evening and we look forward to the next one.

HOPE stands for Hearing Other People's Experiences and the committee is a sub-committee of the St Mary's Parents' Association (PA).



PA NEWS: PA 100 CLUB WINNERS

Thank you for participating in the St Mary's club 100 raffle. Congratulations to the following families on their winnings.

Pupil information - winner	Percentage won
Lonwabo Bingwa	10%
Victoria Staples	20%
Lucy Haden-Smith	100%

NALEDI THE MUSICAL



SAVE THE DATE - ST MARY'S ROWING GOLF DAY



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 set up 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.