# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS



St Mary's School Waverley Founded 1885

6 OCTOBER 2023

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Form V Visual Art exhibition

#### FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The campus has been a hive of activity in the past weeks. The Form Vs have had to finalise practical and portfolio assessments for the IEB and the cultural and sports programmes are in a busy phase before examinations begin in November. We have hosted many events and celebrated with the Form Vs. Our school routine is always punctuated with both remarkable and challenging experiences that we must hold side by side.

One of these events was the Matric Visual Art exhibition which I attended on Monday. It was rewarding to take time to reflect on how our girls have developed into confident young women ready for the next phase of life. I was aware at the exhibition of how school is a place where life and its cycles, complexities, joys and hardships are so visible - the joy and heartache of life collide. The Form Vs had a fun filled day to mark the end of their schooling; the art students were showcasing their creativity, which is not always easily uncovered and expressed; their teacher, Mrs Mowatt had arrived with her newborn baby, to see her students present their personal work to the community. Many of our girls, particularly the rowers, were grieving the tragic loss of our strength and conditioning coach, Matt Bekker.

All of this splashed across the canvas of one day. It is a lesson in life and one that we can use to guide our children, as we prepare them for life and all that it holds.

We pray for the Bekker family at this sad and difficult time.

#### FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The role of a sacristan is of profound significance. It entails the meticulous preparation of the chapel, ensuring that every detail is in place for worship and nurturing the sacred atmosphere that offers solace to many people. My time as a sacristan has forged memories that are precious and irreplaceable. Those moments of serenity and reflection, as well as the shared sense of purpose during religious ceremonies, have left an indelible mark on my heart.

My contribution has transcended mere physical tasks; it has been a spiritual offering, a heartfelt gesture of love and devotion to my faith. I hope that my service has touched the lives of those who sought solace and inspiration within the chapel's sacred walls. Additionally, collaborating with the head of chapel, Luca Botes, and participating in SOCS meetings, have helped students navigate life's challenges, instilled a sense of purpose, community and inner strength.

Participating in this integral part of the school's faith community through chapel services and Eucharists has deepened my appreciation and connection to the St Mary's community. As I step away from this role, I am grateful to have been a part of the legacy of the sacristans who came before me and extend my best wishes to those who will follow in the same path. My time as a sacristan has been a beautiful chapter in my spiritual journey, one that I will always treasure and I will always hold dear the moments when I had the privilege of delivering the SOCS announcements every Friday.



LANGELIHLE MOLEFE SACRISTAN

# MEET THE Edtech and design and technology departments



Lauren Frost HoD: Technology BHuishEd (Stellenbosch)



Themba Ndimande EdTech BEd 4<sup>th</sup> year student (Wits)

#### AFRIKAANS OLYMPIAD

The annual ATKV Senior Afrikaans Olympiad for First Additional Language was written in May this year. A record 44 of our Form III, IV and V girls participated in the Olympiad and took on the challenge of applying their language skills at provincial and national levels.

We are proud of Emma Norden (Form III) and Christine Craven (Form V), whose results in the Olympiad were ranked in the top 20 students in both Gauteng Province and at national level. This is an exceptional achievement, a wonderful exhibition of language skills and understanding.

In addition, Lai Yi Pinkney (Form III) and Maria du Plessis (Form IV) achieved excellent distinctions.

All Form III, IV and V students studying Afrikaans First Additional Language, irrespective of their home languages, may enter the Senior Olympiad at first additional language level. In 2024, we aim to extend this opportunity to Form I and II students to enter the ATKV Junior Afrikaans Olympiad for first additional language. The focus of both senior and junior olympiads is on comprehension, grammar, poetry and literature skills.

We look forward to seeing both our senior and junior girls take the opportunity to showcase their skills next year.

BERDINE FOURIE-van der WATT HEAD OF AFRIKAANS

SIMON IDEMA



Emma Norden



Christine Craven



Lai Yi Pinkney



Maria du Plessis

### DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

National Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships

Juhi Baboolal (Form III), Kgaugelo Makgato (Form III), Reitumetse Molapo (Form III) and Jemma Tresling (Form II) participated in the National Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (NIDPSC), which took place at St Mary's DSG, Kloof, from 22 to 25 September. Students participate in various categories, including interpretive reading, impromptu speaking, public speaking and debating.

The following girls made it through to the final rounds of the tournament:

Juhi Baboolal (FIII): Impromptu Speaking Reitumetse Molapo (FIII): Impromptu Speaking and Persuasive Public Speaking Jemma Tresling (FII): After Dinner Public Speaking

Juhi and Reitumetse also ranked in the Top 20 across all categories, with Juhi ranking 14<sup>th</sup> and Reitumetse ranking 7<sup>th</sup>.



Juhi Baboolal



Reitumetse Molapo



Kgaugelo Makgato



Jemma Tresling

#### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE LEGACY

#### Our Pride mural

As the 2023 heads of the diversity committee, our main objective has been to uphold and enhance the legacy that our school strives to achieve - a positive and diverse environment that fosters inclusivity. Throughout our tenure, we dedicated ourselves to making a meaningful impact on the girls.

At QSA (Queer Students Association) the idea of a permanent symbol of pride in the school was proposed and discussed. As heads together with QSA, an important sub-committee under the umbrella of diversity, took up the challenge to make this a reality. While raising and lowering of the pride flag was a possibility, we believed it to be performative and not representative of our school's unwavering support for LGBTQIA+ members of our community. After confirming support from school management, who were also instrumental in the formation of this idea, we worked diligently in May to finalise the details of a mural that would convey our message of inclusivity and support. Ms King and the school management played a crucial role in supporting our initiative, and we are incredibly grateful for their contributions.

To create the mural, a competition was held in the school, unfortunately, only one girl submitted a design. As a result, the diversity heads sought help from Grace Van Loggerenberg (Form V) and Rebecca Trickett (Form V), the student heads of art. Throughout the month of May, the team worked tirelessly on the design, with Grace taking the lead in creating a design. Early on in this process Ms Theophanous had suggested that the permanent mural be a mosaic to accompany and complement the existing mosaic on The Edge wall, which became the basis for the design. Feedback from various parties, including Ms King, the QSA heads, Ms Cooper and Ms Mowatt, helped to refine the design until it was completed in early June.

To install the mural, we contacted Lindsay Gaydon, an Old Girl (class of 1985), who provided valuable input, including dimensions, logistics, cost and timeline. After much effort, the construction was scheduled to begin in August. Shortly after we returned from prelims, the mural was installed within two days. We are absolutely thrilled with the final product and we truly are grateful for the opportunity we were given. The mural was designed in such a way to be a timeless piece that stands for the school's values. The LGBTQIA+ community and our school share the core principles of hope, love and inclusivity we hope to have represented.

To all our St Mary's students, this is for you. You belong here and St Mary's is your home. THIYA KALAN, OLIVIA SMITH, LEBONE TSHETLO

HEAD AND DEPUTY HEADS OF DIVERSITY



Grace Van Loggerenberg, Olivia Smith, Lebone Tshetlo \* Thiya Kalan in absentia



Thiya Kalan - head of diversity

# **ATHLETICS**

The athletes have continued to train hard and are being rewarded with some excellent improvements in times especially in the middle-distance events. Most of the weekly athletics meetings are used to collect times and experiment with team structure and relay combinations. Last week St Mary's hosted the athletics meeting at Germiston and we did keep scores. The girls ran well but must be cognisant of the fact that St Andrew's were not present. Inter-high will take place on Thursday 19 October, which leaves us with little time to reach our peak.

Results of meeting on Thursday 28 September:

 St Dominic's
 73,5

 St Teresa's
 170,5

 Kingsmead
 273

 Brescia
 292

 Holy Rosary
 325

 St Mary's
 399

QUIX DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Sihle Makwe - Athletics captain 2023/2024

### BASKETBALL

We have had a most successful start to the basketball season!

Our teams put in excellent performances against Holy Rosary, winning three out of the four fixtures and against St Peter's, winning two out of the four matches. The U15 team lost in extra time and the U16's lost by one basket only. The 1<sup>st</sup> team won both of their matches which made us very proud.

We participated in the St Peter's Festival over the long weekend and really benefited from playing against opposition from outside the province. The matches were demanding, and our girls had to push hard! The experience of playing against such strong teams was of real benefit for our players.

The St Mary's Summer Shoot Out took place on 29 and 30 September. It was a happy two days for the players, coaches, supporters and for the basketball community at large. Play was of a high standard and the sportsmanship and camaraderie was most heartwarming. Our teams played well. Each match was competitive which bought out the best in our girls! We are proud of the 1<sup>st</sup> team who ended the tournament with silver medals!

Thank you to the staff at St Mary's for their dedication to the school and for their contribution to a most enjoyable St Mary's Summer Shoot Out!



Nalenhle Mbatha (head girl) designed our basketball tournament t-shirt!



TARYN de WINNAAR HEAD OF BASKETBALL

#### TENNIS

The St Mary's 1st team participated in the Hilton/St Anne's doubles tournament and played tennis of an extremely high standard.

St Mary's beat Helpmekaar Kollege and The Wykeham Collegiate without dropping a match to reach the finals of the doubles event where they lost to a strong team from St Mary's, Kloof in a closely contested final by two matches to one.

St Mary's teamed up with St Stithians College to defend their mixed doubles title. The combined team beat Helpmekaar Kollege and Clifton College/The Wykeham Collegiate to reach the final. In the final, the St Mary's/St Stithians team faced tough opposition and lost to St Mary's DSG Kloof and Westville Boys High School to get the silver medal.

Congratulations to Bashali Phatshwane (Form II), Tayla Gibbs (Form IV), Mackenzie Summers (Form II), Kirsten Hadiaris (Form III), Erin Kruger (Form II), Emma Van Zyl (Form IV) and Emma Shuttleworth (Form III) on their high standard of play on the court and their good behaviour off the court. They were a credit to their parents and their school.

Congratulations to Moroesi Tuoane (Form III) who has been selected to attend the prestigious South African U16 Masters that will be held in Cape Town. Only eight players in each age group are invited to attend this event.

26 September

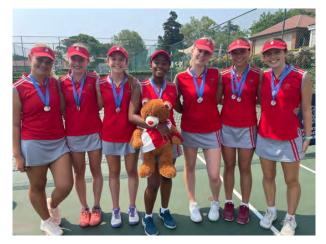
The St Mary's teams continue to fare well in their league matches. Keep up the hard work and enthusiasm.

League results:

#### 19 September

St Mary's E beat Assumption A 44-19 St Mary's F beat Assumption B 48-15 St Mary's G lost to De La Salle A 13-50 St Mary's H beat De La Salle B 43-20 St Mary's A beat Brescia A 45-18 St Mary's B beat Brescia B 42-21 St Mary's C beat Rand Park A 36-27 St Mary's D beat Rand Park B 56-7 St Mary's E lost to Dainfern A 24-39 St

Mary's F beat Dainfern B 45-18 St Mary's G lost to Redhill A 25-38 St Mary's H beatt Redhill B 33-28 **RENE PLANT** HEAD OF TENNIS



Silver medal winners at St Anne's Hilton Doubles Tournament



St Anne's tour, celebrating Heritage Day

#### WATER POLO

Congratulations to our 1<sup>st</sup> water polo team on winning the bronze medal at the prestigious Roedean School Water Polo Prestige Cup 2023. The girls won the  $3^{rd}/4^{th}$  playoff by eight goals to four against St Dominic's.

Well done to the players and coaches.

ANKE PIRIE SPORTS COACH



# ST MARY'S GOLF DAY



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 <u>lisa.grobbelaar@stmary.co.za</u>

Click <u>here</u> to book your fourball All proceeds to go to the St Mary's Foundation

# PRIZES NEEDED FOR GOLF DAY

ALL MONEY RAISED AT THIS EVENT GOES TO THE ST MARY'S FOUNDATION.

PLEASE CONTACT LISA.GROBBELAAR@STMARY.CO.ZA SHOULD YOU WISH TO DONATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



# **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 StMary'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 <u>portal@stmary.co.za</u>, 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.

#### SUPPORTER GEAR FROM THE CLOTHES CUPBOARD

