



Form I stained-glass project (see page 5 for further details)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

In the past week there has been a level of activity on campus that was last experienced before the pandemic. Teachers, coaches and pupils have embraced the opportunity to participate in inter-school competition, to explore tentatively a short offsite camp for Form Is, and to host the matric prayer service. The Forms I - V girls have also attended sessions on social justice and racial literacy, facilitated by Lovelyn Nwadeyi of L&N Advisors.

Certain restrictions, however, remain which include no spectators and audiences at events. I am grateful to our parents who support us in respecting the restrictions which we are obliged to maintain in order to ensure that our campus is a safe place. We will continue to use virtual meetings and presentations to include parents in school life and maintain communication.

The daily atmosphere on campus benefits from the girls' energy and enthusiasm; from their vocal participation; their interest in learning and their appreciation of friendships and social interaction. I was on morning Covid-19 screening duty this week and it is a joy to interact with the girls and experience their individuality and positivity.

I hope you will enjoy reading the following pages which present your daughters' school life.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

[Jesus] said, "as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

- John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

These words form part of Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples are playing of part of Christ's teaching, during this Easter season, which Jesus told us to remember.

The Greek word *meno* that is rendered "abide" in this Bible reading, is one that does not translate easily into an English word. Alternatives include "remain", "dwell" or "endure". Thus, a stability of presence and of being is contained within *meno*.

Jesus' words cited above come directly after he speaks of himself as the vine, God the Father as the vine grower, and us as the branches that are called to bear fruit (John 15:1-8). In the context of this image, *meno* has the implication of remaining in Christ as a branch remains in the vine – such that the same nutrients flow through the branch as they do through the vine. If we abide in Christ in this way, the fruit we bear in loving others will be a product of Christ's love flowing through us and nourishing us.

I find *meno* to be a call just to be – just to sit – in Christ's love. It is a comforting call to be refreshed and renewed.

To those who are followers of the Orthodox Christian faith and who therefore celebrated Easter this past weekend, we say, "Happy Easter!". We also wish "Eid Mubarak!" to members of our community who are Muslim and observing Ramadan at present, and who will celebrate Eid al Fitr on Wednesday 12 May.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN



HONOURS BLAZERS

At the final assembly of Term I 2021, the following blazers were awarded:

Cultural Honours:



From the left: Caitlin Bloom, Niamh Craker, Tessa Dröge

Service Honours:



Back row: Leigh Fernihough, Ameerah Omar
Front row: Felicity Clemmow, Ghita Economakis

Sports Honours:



From the left: Tannah Proudfoot, Samantha Whateley

RACIAL LITERACY

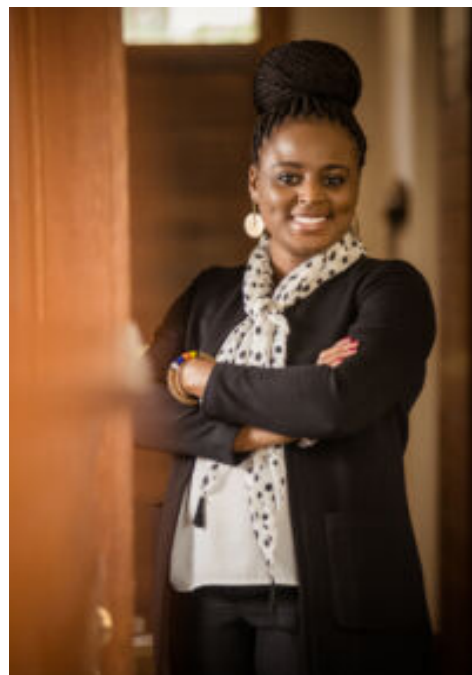
Over the past few months, Lovelyn Nwadeyi has been working with the academic, and administrative staff and, at the beginning of Term II, with the students, to improve our current levels of racial literacy.

Lovelyn Nwadeyi, founder and director of L & N Advisors, is a well-known South African voice within the field of social justice. Her academic qualifications include a BA International Studies (Stellenbosch), an MSc in Peace and Conflict Resolution (Uppsala University, Sweden) and professional certification in Telecommunications Policy and Regulation Management (WITS).

Lovelyn is dynamic, energetic and has excellent intuition as to the learning needs of each group she leads. To date, we have covered topics including identity, intellectual humility, privilege, Ta-Nehisi Coates's view on using the 'n' word and internalised oppression, to mention but a few.

While learning, unlearning, and relearning closely held personal views, can be challenging, we understand that this work is life long and important. It is being made more effective with the help of professional coaching.

Lovelyn will also continue work with our parent body. The next parent session will be on Tuesday 6 July, from 17h00 – 19h00. All are welcome.



PHUMZILE SITHEBE, CAROLYN HUYSAMER AND LYNN NORTHMORE
TRANSFORMATION AND DIVERSITY TEAM

A NEW ERA OF INTEGRITY

For the past few months, the St Mary's community has committed to bettering and expanding students' experience. The introduction of the transformation and racial literacy workshops has left many girls acknowledging and appreciating the steps taken by the school to ameliorate the relationship between teachers and students. The racial literacy workshops have taken place under social justice advisor and facilitator Lovelyn Nwadeyi, the founder and director of L & N Advisors. The consulting firm aims to see social justice as a normalised practice by implementing it in businesses and academic and religious sectors.

Ms Nwadeyi revealed that she had been interested in social justice from a young age and has been campaigning for justice ever since she was able to identify it. Her interest in the field peaked in 2012 after studying for her first degree at the University of Stellenbosch. While she was not as vocal as she would have liked to be during her undergraduate studies, when she returned in 2015 as a PhD student, her experience outside the country had helped cultivate her confidence. It resulted in her activism #OpenStellenbosch protests. Nevertheless, now an experienced activist and social justice consultant, Ms Nwadeyi still finds herself overwhelmed with the amount of injustice in the world. She revealed that while there will always be exceptions in our knowledge on how to navigate these problems, it is imperative that all people take on the responsibility of educating themselves to offer fair and equal treatment of all as far as possible. Her work with both staff and students has been significantly appreciated and beneficial. She acknowledges the gravity of responsibility placed on her to ensure that what is said is received correctly and without causing any harm, especially with the students.

Additionally, Ms Nwadeyi proposed that, as a community and individuals, we must all reflect on and interrogate our beliefs to achieve a space with the intention of achieving solutions instead of further rifts. The work and development the school's community is aiming for needs to happen at all levels, from the Junior School to the staff. If what we desire is to change the system, then co-operation and a new era of open-mindedness need to become a regular practice in our institution. Through this, change is not imposed on others who then resist it. Instead, they come to the change themselves as they become more invested. Ultimately, as the St Mary's community, it is essential to keep pushing for change and social justice that benefits us all and, as Ms Nwadeyi aptly says, we must "walk in integrity".

MELISSA ENGELBRECHT
FORM V

DEBATING



Congratulations to Nyasha Mazarura (FIV) who was selected for the South African A debating team. Keep an eye out for more information when she will be representing the country in a debating competition.

ITUMELENG MOHANOE
DEBATING COACH

CREATIVE ARTS: FORM I STAINED-GLASS PROJECT

Throughout the first term, the Form I pupils had an opportunity to create stained-glass artworks that focused on the ethos and religious culture of our school. Revd Claudia and I collaborated to create the stained-glass project within Creative Arts. St Mary's is an Anglican school, however, we have a diverse group of pupils who attend our educational space. To express inclusion, acceptance and love of the diversity in our community each pupil was encouraged to create a stained-glass design that would emulate her own religious space. We were introduced to different symbols from diverse religions and cultural backgrounds, such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and more. While the project presented different design challenges for the pupils, the final artworks truly express the diversity of our community.



BIANCA PARIRENYATWA
ARTS AND CULTURE TEACHER

ECOBRIK COMMUNITY SERVICE

On Saturday 17 April, a few of the St Mary's Form IV girls and St David's matric boys participated in a community service initiative in Diepsloot. Earthly Touch Foundation (NPO) is working in partnership with Khensani's Collection to repurpose plastic litter into Ecobricks. The initiative is aimed at getting communities involved in clearing their environment of plastic litter which contributes to global warming. Based at God's Will Ministry Church, the Ecobricks are donated and new ones are created. The bottles are sorted and weighed to ensure they meet the required quality and standard.

While we were in Diepsloot, the existing classroom and desks were being painted and fixed to give a neater, more vibrant feel. I was pleasantly surprised by the classroom which had been built entirely out of Ecobricks as this inspired me to continue to make Ecobricks at home and also to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. I thoroughly enjoyed being involved in this community service initiative and encourage others to become involved.

ANOSHAMISA DUBE
GREEN DREAM- FORM IV



Tips to complete a viable Ecobrick

An Ecobrick which does not meet the weight requirements or which is dirty, has to be discarded. Here are some tips towards producing a successful Ecobrick and, ultimately, our planet's preservation:

1. Ecobricks must be made with clean and dry plastic. Wet, moist or dirty plastic will encourage microbial growth and methane forming inside the Ecobrick. Since these are often used to make furniture, we want to avoid unsightly Ecobricks, bloated bottles and, in rare cases, caps popping off.
2. Start by segregating your plastic from all other materials. Some 'ecobrickers' have been known to bring a bottle with them everywhere they go. Others save up their Ecobrick plastic in a bin until they have time to get to it.
3. Cut or rip up large plastics into smaller pieces. The smaller the pieces, the denser the brick! Fill the bottle up halfway with loose plastic, then use a stick to push down around the sides of the bottle. Keep pushing down moving around the circumference of the bottle. Once compressed, add more loose plastics. To maximize the density, it is effective mixing soft then hard plastic. Weigh the Ecobrick occasionally to make sure you are on track for your target minimum weight which is roughly 600g for a 2 litre bottle. If a bottle has 'legs' or dimples at the bottom, be sure to pack these solid and full.
4. Pushing too hard is problematic. When using a sharp stick, a thin bottle or too much lateral force, an Ecobrick will rupture. If so, discard and start again. Ruptured bottles will not last and can leak plastics. The good news is that cut or damaged PET plastic is readily recycled.

JANE MCMURRAY
HOD: CULTURALS

SWIMMING

Our sincere congratulations are extended to Emma Franck (FIV) who was selected to swim at the Olympic trials during the holidays. She swam in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle events. She made the B final in the 100m and 200m and swam personal best times of 58,61 and 2.08,87 respectively. This is a huge honour and an incredible achievement. Emma is now hoping to qualify to swim at the Junior World Championships later in the year.



QUIX
HEAD OF SPORT

HOCKEY

The 1st team participated in the inaugural North West Eagles Hockey Festival in Potchefstroom from Friday 30 April to Sunday 2 May. It was a great training opportunity for the 1st team, and we used the weekend to get valuable match practice before the season begins. The team was up against it in the very first game as we played one of the best in the country, Oranje Meisieskool from Bloemfontein. The festival provided the girls with an exceptional learning experience to take into the season.

The U16 A and 2nd team also kicked off their season over the same weekend with friendly matches against Garsfontein. The U16 A team got off to a good start beating Garsfontein 2-0. They played some very constructive hockey and, although there is room for improvement, there is much to look forward to in the upcoming season. The 2nd team came up against a strong Garsfontein 1st team and gained valuable match practice against a very competent outfit. It is exciting to have our players back on the field competing after a lengthy break, owing to Covid-19. We are all looking forward to the season ahead.

CINDY BROWN
HOCKEY COACH



ATHLETICS



St Mary's is proud of Jasmin Vermeulen (FIII) who was selected to run at the South African Athletics Championships held in Paarl during the April holiday. She ran in the U17 400m event and ended 7th in the final with a superb time of 58.65. She also ran in the 4x400m relay and her team placed 2nd earning a silver medal.

QUIX
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

ROWING

This second part of the rowing season was accompanied by the arrival of the new U14 rowers. The U14s eager attitudes have brought a fresh perspective the club's spirit. It was an incredible experience watching the U14 girls enter the club's legacy and begin their rowing journey. St Mary's rowing club welcomed the new members to our special red and white family with open arms.

Congratulations are extended to the rowers selected for the South African Development Squad as well as the South African National Rowing Squad. The girls worked hard for these achievements and there is no doubt they will represent the club with pride.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, events such as regattas and rowing camps were not an option but the competitive spirit remained high within the club as a result of weekly team bonding challenges. The weekly challenges covered a variety of different events such as pop quizzes, ergo trials, creative body weight sessions, as well as an inter-club regatta to end off the season.

The club embodied the phrase "with pride, with passion" chosen by our captain at the start of the season and continues to represent strength and stamina. The senior Opens have remained a pillar of support, guidance and strength within the club and we wish them the best of luck for the rest of their matric year and future endeavours.

TAMLIN KLEMENT
FORM IV



SIZANANI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Two St Mary's parents joined the Sizanani mentorship programme (Sizanani.org.za) in March. Each of them will mentor Grade 10 or 11 learners from Alexandra high schools, who are attending the Ikusasa Lethu Programme at St Mary's.



Xolise Ndaba (centre), a St Mary's parent, with her mentees Amogeleng and Lumuka

'The first month has been amazing. We hit the road running,' says Xolise. 'I had lunch with my mentees and we planned future activities. One chose movies and the other one, an art session. I am also helping the Grade 11 learner with research on university applications. My other mentee is in Grade 10. I am grateful for this opportunity to guide them. It is a true privilege!'

Join us at our next new mentor induction and meet our learners on Saturday 15 May at St Mary's from 12h30 to 15h00.

Call: Samantha 081 319 6532

Email: info@sizanani.org.za

SAMANTHA MUTOREDZANWA
SIZANANI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME MANAGER

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.