



A great weekend of sport (11-13 February)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The St Mary's School campus in recent weeks has reflected a vibrant image of school life, with the co-curricular programme filling the afternoons and weekends. There is no doubt that activities in service, cultural and sport provide enjoyment, challenge and satisfaction for the girls.

I extend congratulations to all the sports teams - basketball, diving, swimming, rowing, squash, tennis, water polo - on their achievements of the past week. Our teams have emerged fit, strong and with improved skills after the restrictions of the pandemic. The sports results recorded in this newsletter are worth celebrating, together with the sheer pleasure that the girls experience when participating in their chosen sport. It was satisfying to watch the enthusiasm of our tennis players as they participated in the festival on campus last weekend.

The cultural programme promises to deliver good results in the coming weeks. We are participating in debating and public speaking competitions, chess, the school plays are in rehearsal and music groups are working on new repertoire.

The spirit team has also been active and audible on campus as they begin preparing for big events this term. Our campus activities were further enhanced by a visiting performance of the St David's Marist choir and the matric dance invitation ceremony.

All this activity is also a reminder that we need to guide and support the girls to find balance and to take quiet time for themselves, away from the noise.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As a school, 'community' is a value we hold in high regard. Our generosity of spirit expresses this value, which the Anglican Board of Education for Southern Africa describes as follows:

One of the hallmarks of an Anglican Church school is a spirit of kindness, compassion and respect for all people. This expresses itself in healthy relationships in the school and toward the wider community. Concern for the common good is shown through community service and support of charity, and in healthy relationships with those of other faiths. The school is a welcoming and safe place. The school quickly identifies and responds appropriately to any member of the school community who is in need and who needs healing and wholeness (ABESA 2016).

I raise this point about the generosity of spirit as we have just had our first diversity assembly. Our Anglican identity, in its genius, demands of us to embrace diversity in its most straightforward and most complex forms, for example, the importance of holding different Christian traditions in tension. It also reminds us that diversity in our community is not something to be discussed separately. Instead, it runs through and underpins our way of being as the body of Christ. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12).



Spirit assembly

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

MEET THE NEW STAFF



Dean Du Toit
Physical Sciences
BSc Hons (Wits) PGCE (UNISA)



Lebogang Mohlahlana
Mathematics
BSc Hons (Wits) PGCE (Stadio College)



Mariëtte Adam
EdTech
BEd (Wits)

FOOTPRINTS IN THE CLOUD

Those of us born before 1980, thankfully, have almost no digital footprint to reflect on our teenage years. There are no records of what we thought, said or did in our free time. We are the lucky ones!

Today's typical adolescents, the digital natives are risk takers and are significantly influenced by their peers. They have limited impulse control and have not yet fully developed the ability to make well-considered decisions. Their enjoyment of a moment means photographing it. Around the clock they are connected to communicate with hundreds of other adolescents. All the while, their online presence leaves a footprint in the cloud.

Now more than ever, our students need our support to navigate the complexities of their online world. At school, they will continue to be supported through Life Orientation lessons, assemblies and through listening to carefully selected guest speakers.

For parents, the digital immigrants, I recommend a short but comprehensive book written by two of South Africa's leading social media lawyers, Emma Sadleir and Dr Lizzie Harrison, entitled *Selfies, Sexts and Smartphones*. The target audience is teenagers but, for parents and guardians to remain abreast with the online challenges today's teenagers face, this is a must read. Valuable information about all the major social media platforms and their concomitant pitfalls on a wide range of topics are included.

If we are to do justice to raising our children, let us work together as a village to do so.

CAROLYN HUYSAMER
HEAD OF STUDENT LIFE



IKUSASA LETHU

The Ikusasa Lethu Saturday school opened on Saturday 29 January, and we are looking forward to a year of learning and opportunities. We had a fantastic start to the year with our best matric results to date:

From a class of 76 learners, 76% obtained Bachelor Degree admission passes, 17% obtained diploma passes and 4% received matric certificates. This gives us a pass rate of 97.2%. We are incredibly proud of our learners and will be supporting the class 2022 every step of the way in the hope that they will be afforded these same opportunities.



Sithabile Ntshalintshali (right) obtained seven distinctions and has been accepted by Wits for a Bachelor in Accounting Science. Modiehi Mokoena (left) obtained six distinctions and has been accepted by Wits (with a scholarship) to study a Bachelor in Computer Science.

ROBYN KNOWLES
HEAD OF IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME

VISUAL ART



The Senior School Art students have completed their brown paper drawings which will be submitted to the national Reddam drawing competition. The artists have explored a range of subject matter and themes and produced dynamic, interesting and multifaceted artworks. The works have been completed in a range of media including pencil, paint, pastel, charcoal, collage and multimedia. The works read from left to right are by Alice Thiel (Form III), Anastasia Clarke (Form III), Grace van Loggerenberg (Form IV), Jolien Koen (Form V), Lesedi Mochela (Form V) and Sally Mohlakola (Form V).

DANIELLE MOWATT
HOD: VISUAL ARTS

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

To wrap up a fantastic and fruitful 2021 rhythmic gym season, congratulations are extended to our junior olympic gymnast, Zeinab Kone (Form II), and Level 9 gymnast Lesedi Mochela (Form V) for each being named the Central Gauteng Gymnast of the Year for their respective levels at the end of last year. Well done, Zeinab and Lesedi!

With the 2022 season underway, there's no time to rest just yet. At the beginning of January, while most of us were enjoying the last few days of holiday, Zeinab was invited to attend an intensive training camp as one of the top five junior Olympic gymnasts in the country. Currently, she is hard at work in the gym preparing for the trials for the 16th African Championships. On Saturday 12 March, Zeinab hopes to be chosen to represent South Africa at junior Olympic level. "I am nervous because there are phenomenal gymnasts from all over South Africa who are striving and are hungry for a spot. But in the end, I just need to tell myself that I am hungrier."

The 16th African Championships will be held from Thursday 19 May to Saturday 21 May in Cairo, Egypt. These championships are a prestigious platform for African gymnasts, from across gymnastics codes, to compete against the best Africa has to offer. For Zeinab to reach such a point in her gymnastics career is a huge achievement for which we applaud her. We wish you the best of luck, Zeinab, and hope you are chosen for the green and gold!



Lesedi Mochela and Zeinab Kone

LESEDI MOCHELA
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CAPTAIN

BASKETBALL



Our basketball teams have had their hands full!

The 1st team and an invitational team played in the St Dunstan's Tournament on Saturday 5 February. The day turned out to be a very busy one, with both teams playing four matches each. The 1st team is going from strength to strength. They are developing into a cohesive unit which is becoming more and more competitive with each outing. Their matches were closely contested, and the team did well to finish in 3rd place. The invitational team was made up of senior, U16 and U15 players. The aim of entering a team of this nature is to provide the players with an opportunity to play against stronger teams, develop both technically and tactically, and gain valuable experience which they will use later in their playing careers. It was a tough day for this group but the players are commended on their "never say die" attitude, their enthusiasm and their positivity. They finished 6th overall.

On Wednesday 9 February, our teams played against St Stithian's in our local league fixture. Although some matches were shortened owing to the weather, St Mary's enjoyed a successful afternoon, winning all four matches.

We have one league fixture remaining. We will be playing against St Dunstan's on Wednesday 23 February. The 1st team also have the Old Petrian's Tournament to look forward to. This tournament takes place over the half-term weekend and promises to be a very competitive and exciting event for the team.

We wish all our teams well!

TARYN DE WINNAAR
HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

ROWING

Buffalo and Selborne tour

From Wednesday 9 February to Sunday 13 February, the St Mary's Open age group toured to East London to race on the Buffalo River. The Buffalo regatta is a national regatta, with school, master, and university crews competing over the 2km course. The heat races took place on Thursday 10 February, with multiple St Mary's crews making the finals which were raced on Saturday 12 February. St Mary's did exceptionally well with the 1st quad, 1st four, 3rd quad, 1st pair and double scull winning gold in their various finals. The junior women's pair trophy, and the junior women's quadruple scull trophy were awarded to our 1st pair and 1st quad. On Friday 11 February, the Selborne Sprints Regatta were raced over the 500m course. St Mary's excelled once again, winning gold in the 1st quad, 1st four, 1st pair and single scull finals. Everyone had great fun and raced incredibly!

CLARE KEEGAN
FORM IV



NATIONAL AQUATICS 2022

The St Mary's aquatics team had an excellent weekend competing at the annual National Aquatics Festival. This year the event was hosted by St Mary's DSG Kloof.

Friday 11 February proved to be a successful day for our aquatic sports. The swimming and diving teams both placed first in the gala and diving competition. The water polo team won two of their three pool games.

Our swimmers swam well with many of them achieving personal bests. They achieved a total of 445 points placing them in 1st place, 17 points ahead of Our Lady of Fatima DSG and 91 points ahead of the 3rd place winners, St Stithians College.

The diving team were able to follow suit and placed first with a total of 83 points, with many of the divers winning silver medals in their age group events. The diving competition proved to be competitive and it was exciting to watch our divers bring out their big dives.

The water polo team played their pool matches and beat Maris Stella 15-0 and St Mary's Kloof 13-4. They lost 10-1 to St Stithians, despite many pressured opportunities to score. On Saturday, the team displayed true grit in their semi-final against Clarendon where they managed to fight hard to get themselves into a penalty shootout but, sadly, lost. They then played Durban Girls' College for the bronze medal match and lost.

St Mary's Waverley will host the National Aquatics Festival in 2023 and we look forward to a spectacular event in our very own aquatics centre.

KELSEY THOMSON
HEAD OF AQUATICS



TENNIS

The St Mary's tennis players have had a very successful few weeks on the tennis courts.

St Mary's hosted the St Mary's Invitational Tennis festival from Friday 11 February to Saturday 13 February. Six schools from across the country competed, together with two teams from St Mary's, for the title. The St Mary's first team played tennis of a very high standard to clinch the title in a convincing manner. St Mary's beat The Wykeham Collegiate, St Cyprians and St Mary's DSG Kloof to end top of their pool. St Mary's then went on to beat Menlopark in the semi-finals by five matches to one and Somerset College without losing a single match in the finals. Congratulations to Lilitha Ndungane, Tyrah Cook, Moroosi Tuoane, Tayla Gibbs and Tisanke Mwanza on this outstanding performance.

The St Mary's festival team also played extremely well and gained valuable experience. The festival team beat Curro Hazeldean in one of their pool matches. They secured an upset by beating St Cyprian's in the play-offs and only lost in a very close match to The Wykeham Collegiate to secure 6th place. Well done to Bashali Phatswane, Bailey Selvam, Jessica Lansdown, Alexia Bakos and Madison Corbett on their high standard of play.

The final positions are as follows:

- 1 St Mary's 1st team
- 2 Somerset College
- 3 St Mary's DSG (Kloof)
- 4 Die Hoërskool Menlopark
- 5 The Wykeham Collegiate
- 6 St Mary's festival team

7 St Cyprian's School
8 Curro Hazeldean

The league and the school championships are going extremely well with all the teams competing and faring exceptionally well. Unfortunately, a few of the league matches were rained out last week.

League results

1 February

- St Mary's A beat Roedean A 84-7
- St Mary's B beat Helpmekaar B 67-15
- St Mary's C beat St Theresa's A 45-18
- St Mary's D beat St Theresa's B 47-16
- St Mary's E lost to Redhill A 35-46
- St Mary's F beat Redhill B 47-34
- St Mary's G lost to Parktown A 20-43
- St Mary's H beat Parktown B 40-23

8 February

- St Mary's A beat Northcliff A 44-19
- St Mary's B beat Northcliff B 34-29

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



First and festival teams



First team



First team with cup

MUSE MORNING

Date: Tuesday 22 February

Time: 07h30 to 08h30

Venue: Senior Primary hall

Speaker: Andy Cohen (see biography below)

Topic: "A parent can't always act like a grown-up, here's why..."

Booking is essential as space is limited. Quicket booking:

<https://www.quicket.co.za/events/164978-muse-morning/>

Andy Cohen is a psychoanalyst-in-training and TEDx speaker with a background in art and counselling. She is deeply passionate about creativity and self-repair and works therapeutically with a wide range of groups and individuals in private practice. Andy holds the position of editor-elect on the executive committee for IPSO, the International Psychoanalytical Studies Organisation. She also writes for a range of parenting hubs like Jozi Kids, with a strong focus on "psychoanalytic ideas made simple" in order to empower families to live fuller, more integrated lives.



ROWING CLUB GOLF DAY



St Mary's rowing club
golf day

Please contact Ronelle Price-Hughes on rpricehughes@gmail.com for any queries or sponsorship offers



Please click here to book.
We look forward to seeing you there!



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888