

# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

18 NOVEMBER 2022

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Our congratulations are extended to the St Mary's rowing club for winning the 2022 Gauteng Rowing Championships! (Please see pages 9 and 10 for more information).

# FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The end of a school year is about examinations and the assessment of each individual's progress. A lot of attention is turned towards matric examinations, the results and subsequent tertiary access. For educators, it is a time to evaluate the curriculum and decide on the necessary shifts for the following year.

My attention was caught last week by an article written by Dr Mark Potterton, principal of Sacred Heart College primary school. The headline stated, "Lessons need to prepare children for a world we can hardly imagine but about which we can speculate: we know we will need innovators who can work with complex information to solve problems."

The imperative for schools is that, to work with complex information and to solve problems, we need to deliver both breadth and depth in the curriculum.

Potterton states, "There seems to be agreement that a curriculum that prepares students for life and work is likely to be one that includes an emphasis on deep understanding of subject matter and the ability to apply what is learned; the ability to communicate and solve problems in teams; the ability to think critically and to create novel solutions; and, flexibility, openness to change and a willingness to learn continually."

Life and work success for our students will require rigour. This is achieved through hard work, discipline, and academic convention. The irony is that, in preparation for the future, our students need to acknowledge the value in the established approach to academic study.

DEANNE KING HEAD OF SCHOOL

#### **FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

Community service at St Mary's is an important part of who we are as a community. Reflecting on the year that has been; how the community service team has had to change because of Covid, raises some questions about service going into 2023. Our challenge is to find new and meaningful ways to serve our community and to establish sustainable relationships and partnerships. Service at St Mary's is embodied in the words "caritas" (love) and "charity".

In our Statement on our Christian Identity and Ethos of St Mary's, the above sentiment is expressed as follows:

Christ's ministry consistently illustrates Christ's preferential option for the poor and the marginalised. Jesus' example in this regard underpins St Mary's School's striving to increase the ease of access to education at the school via its bursary and scholarship programmes, the school's commitment to its community affairs programmes, its relationship with neighbouring schools and with the broader community. (Statement on Christian Identity and Ethos of St Mary's #15).

One expression in everyday life and language from society that bears this out is:

*Modidi ke Moloi*, translates: "A poor man (i.e., who has nothing of his own) is a sorcerer". Therefore, the underlying purpose of Sotho-Tswana community life is to ensure that there are none totally destitute...*Modidi ke moloi* is often said by the rich, the powerful and successful, to remind themselves of the lot of the poor. Perhaps it is this principle which lays the charge at the door of African Society that it discourages entrepreneurship which excessively increases the gap between the successful [person] and [their neighbour]. Success, in order to be permanent and lasting, must be shared with the less fortunate. (Setiloane 1986:75).

At this time of the year, we say thank you to parents and staff for their generous donations of both time and money. Your generosity of spirit has made a profound difference in people's lives.



REVD RAKGADI KHOBO CHAPLAIN

Senior School girls involved with service activities on Mandela Day 2022

#### DANCE

Caitlyn Peters (Form I) is congratulated on her dance achievements.

In October, she was awarded a total of six distinctions at the annual East Rand Dance Festival. Caitlyn performed solo and group dances in both the classical ballet - Cecchetti syllabus - and contemporary sections. She won a runners-up badge for her solo ballet performance and two medals for the group performances.

Caitlyn also received a distinction for her final grade Association of International Dance Teachers modern examination.

> JANE MCMURRAY HEAD OF CULTURALS



# **FESTIVE SEASON APPEAL**

# **Festive season appeal for**



We appeal to our community to support the

#### St Mary's Foundation

and at the same time stand a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- First prize: a three night stay for two people at Nungu Game Lodge, valued at R15 000
- Second prize: Nespresso coffee machine with coffee capsules valued at R5 000
- Third prize: Kyocera printer valued at R3 500

Tickets cost **R100** each and all proceeds will go towards purchasing calculators and golf shirts for learners who attend St Mary's Saturday school, *Ikusasa Lethu* (Our Future)



To enter this lucky draw competition to win one of three fabulous prizes, please click here

## MEET THE LIFE ORIENTATION DEPARTMENT





Lynn Northmore - HoD BA Hons, HDE (Wits)



Caitlin Dace BA Hons (UJ), PGCE (Wits)



Taryn de Winnaar BA (UKZN), PGCE (UNISA)



Shea Fourie B Comm (Stellenbosch), PDip (UCT), PGCE (UNISA)



Phuti Mogale LLB (Wits), PGCE (UNISA)

# DEBATING

Francesca Lewitton (Form III) has been selected for the Gauteng Senior Debating team and two of our Form II girls, Juhi Baboolal and Reitumetse Molapo, have been selected for the Gauteng Junior Debating team. Both teams will compete at the South African National Schools' Debating Championships later this year. We are very proud of this excellent achievement.



Francesca Lewitton



Juhi Baboolal



Reitumetse Molapo

#### SPEED-READING IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Do you think that you can read fast? Could you be one of the fastest readers in the world? Well, the resource monitors were curious and wanted to find the fastest reader in our school.

Over three weeks, the resource centre hosted speed-reading races. This race required participants to read a selected extract aloud while one of the resource monitors timed them. Each week, I selected a different extract from interesting biographies and autobiographies about people who competed in different races. Girls from all forms participated in the race. This competition was a fantastic opportunity for people to test their limits and discover a new talent that they might not have known they had. The resource monitors collaborated in making posters, decorating the main resource centre board, and marketing the event digitally. Overall, this was a fun event filled with healthy competition and interesting results. Each week, the top five readers were displayed on the main board.

At the third week's end, the top three winners from each competition day were announced and invited to the Resource Centre to receive their prizes. The first prize was a R200 Readers Warehouse gift voucher, second prize was a R50 Olives & Plates gift voucher and the third prize was a slab of chocolate.

The following girls are the fastest readers at St Mary's:

Week 1 First: Second: Third:	Sally-Louise Ingwe Anna Shaw Tswelelang Pitse	(Form IV)
Week 2 First: Second: Third:	Juhi Baboolal Victoria Tandy Kayla Smith	(Form II) (Form I) (Form II)
Week 3 First: Second: Third:	Kylie Gonçalves Jessica Nobela Olivia Osler	(Form IV) (Form IV) (Form I)



Congratulations to everyone who placed on the podium. Owing to the high demand and positive responses, this event will now be a recurring competition that will continue in Term I next year! I extend my thanks to everyone involved in making this event a possibility and would also like to thank God for giving us the opportunity to create a space where everyone can highlight their different talents and abilities.





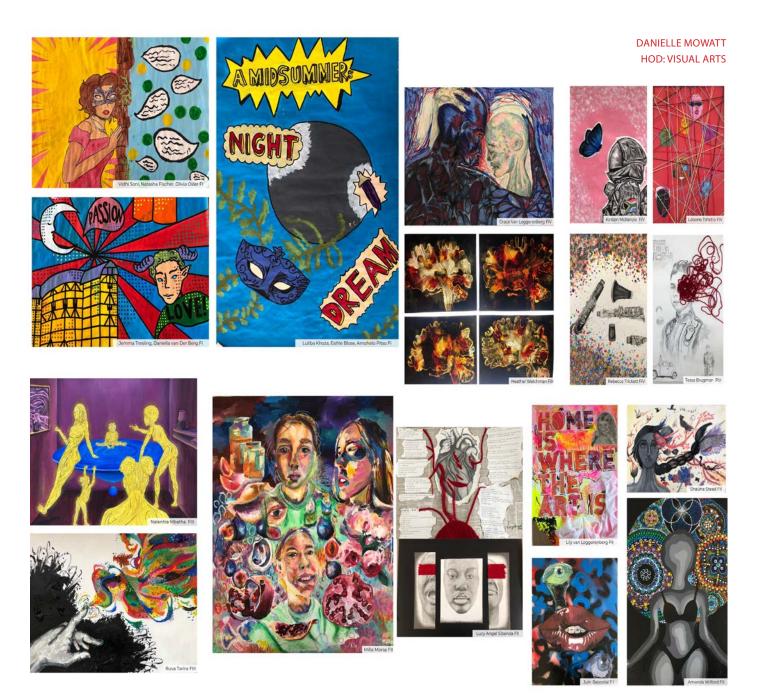
KYLIE GONÇALVES HEAD-ELECT OF RESOURCES

#### FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

#### Senior School Art practical tasks

The Visual Arts students have been working on their final practical pieces for the end-of-year examinations. The work produced is creative and diverse in the themes, messages and mediums used.

Form I students created posters for a Shakespearean play in a pop art style. Form II students could create a piece in any medium of their choice based on the theme *My Art Identity*. Form IIIs created artworks in a six hour practical session under the theme inspired by the Dr. Seuss quote, "Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive that is Youer than You." The Form IVs also had six hours to create a drawing based on the theme, *Interwoven and Intertwined*. The artists produced incredible work. Well done!



### FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

DUDLEY TROLLOPE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Retshegofaditswe Seobi (Form II) and Heather Welchman (Form III) each achieved a fantastic merit result for their Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music performance examinations.

Congratulations!



Retshegofaditswe - grade 4 saxophone



Heather - grade 5 saxophone

#### MARIMBA BAND

We had the privilege of having two of our Senior School marimba bands participate in Education Africa's 20<sup>th</sup> International Marimba Festival. The junior marimba band performed an arrangement of *Spend My Time* by Holly Rey and the seniors performed a mash-up arrangement of *Havana* by Camila Cabello and *Love Nwantint* i by CKay. This was both bands' debut international festival and the overall feedback on their performances were overwhelmingly encouraging. We are already super-excited about next year's return of the live festival and we are hoping to leave a lasting impression!

HASTINGS NYIRENDA MARIMBA BAND TEACHER





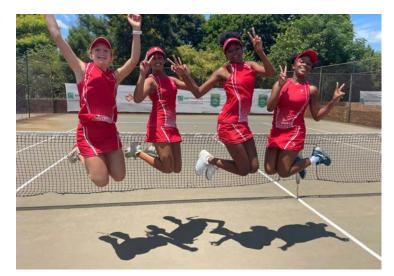
#### TENNIS

The St Mary's U17 tennis team competed in the national finals of the BNP Paribas Rising Stars Competition. The competition is an event aimed at schools throughout the country.

The St Mary's team, comprising of Moroesi Tuoane, Bashali Phatshwane, Bailey Selvam and Tayla Gibbs won the Gauteng provincial leg of the competition in early September and qualified for the national finals.

The team was seeded fifth for the event. St Mary's beat Thaba Secondary School and Potchefstroom Gimnasium (number four seeds) to reach the semi-finals. St Mary's lost in a very close match to Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof in the semi-finals. In the play-off for third and fourth place, St Mary's beat Curro Hillcrest (number two seed) by two matches to one to win the bronze medal.

Congratulations to all the players and to Bailey who had to win her singles match under extreme pressure to clinch the tie for St Mary's.





Bailey Selvam, Bashali Phatshwane, Moroesi Tuoane, Tayla Gibbs

RENÉ PLANT HEAD OF TENNIS

#### **INDOOR NETBALL**

Over the past few months, Alexa Stylianou's indoor U14 A netball team, Hillfox Hornets, played in the Super Indoor Netball League. This league consists of top teams in indoor netball arenas across Gauteng.

Her team was unbeaten throughout the league and, on Sunday 6 November, Hillfox Hornets played in the finals and won the league.

Congratulations to Alexa and the Hillfox Hornets team.

PALESA MASINGA HEAD OF NETBALL



The Hillfox Hornets coach with Alexa

#### ROWING

Once again, Gauteng Championships was an occasion for celebration. The St Mary's rowing club placed first overall in the Junior Women Schools' category. This was a huge achievement and is proof that all the tough sessions and challenging training camps were worth it.

The stellar support from the coaches and parents, as well as the cheering on the bank from the athletes, definitely played an important role in the outcome of the weekend. The result was a perfect way to wrap up this half-season and congratulations are extended to all the rowers who participated in this event.

As Gauteng Championships preparation ended, Boat Race training began. This is an exciting event for both spectators and rowers and takes place early in December. It is approximately a 4000m course held in Port Alfred on the Kowie River and incorporates strategic coxing and endurance rowing.

Congratulations to Tessa Brugman, Sinead Erasmus, Danelia Price-Hughes, Reece McGregor, Heather Welchman, and Sophia Babaya who have been selected for the Boat Race crew. We wish them luck as they race in this memorable event.



Super star U14 age group (see results below):

Race	Position	Athlete	Time
JW/GU14 1x	2	Roos	05:01.5
JW/GU14 4x+	3	Swingler (N)	04:46.2
JW/GU14 8x+	2	Shah-Naidoo	04:42.3



Early morning preparation

Congratulations are also extended to Ziyanda Gwamanda on her inclusion in the Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprints Championship team. The championship will be held in Namibia from 2 to 4 December. The team will be travelling on 29 November to prepare for the new challenge of coastal rowing. Good luck, Ziyanda!

The year is quickly coming to an end and the rowing club wishes the St Mary's community a very merry Christmas. May Christmas be a cheerful end to 2022 and a fresh start to the new year. Wishing everyone a well-deserved and relaxing holiday.



Join us for the January rowing camp: for more information contact <u>caitlin.dace@stmary.co.za</u>

SOPHIA BABAYA FORM III



Mega U15 age group (see results below):

Race	Position	Athlete	Time
JW/GU15 1x	5	Illgner	04:31.4
	6	McGregor (L)	04:34.1
JW/GU15 2x	3	McGregor (L)	04:26.0
JW/GU15 4x+	3	McGregor (L)	04:32.1
	6	Fischer	05:16.0
JW/GU15 8x+	2	Mbizi	04:14.2
	6	Mahasa	05:48.7

# ROWING (CONTINUED)



Slick and strong U16 age group (see results below):

Race	Position	Athlete	Time
JW/GU16 1x	2	Ledlie	09:31.1
	4	Shaw	09:45.3
	8	Kingwill	10:21.0
JW/GU16 2-	3	Rood	10:06.4
	4	Stead	10:16.8
	6	Killian	11:44.2
JW/GU16 2x	2	Ledlie	09:10.6
	5	van Loggerenberg	09:30.5
JW/GU16 4+	1	Rood	09:16.9
JW/GU16 4x+	3	Shaw	08:23.4
	4	Rood	09:12.6



Rock solid open age group (see results below):

Race	Position	Athlete	Time
JW/GU19 1x	2	Price-Hughes	08:50.6
	5	McGregor (R)	09:15.6
JW/GU19 2-	1	Swingler (J)	08:53.6
	2	Babaya	09:07.9
	7	Impey	10:11.8
JW/GU19 2x	1	McGregor (R)	07:53.8
	4	Brugman	08:15.8
JW/GU19 4+	1	Swingler (J)	08:11.9
	4	Pestana	08:37.5
	6	Spencer	10:07.9
JW/GU19 2 <sup>nd</sup> 4x+	1	Pestana	08:48.6
JW/GU19 1st 4x+	2	Price-Hughes	07:45.4
	4	Swingler (J)	08:17.6



Silver medalist of U16 sculls



Winners of the 1st pair

## **RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS**

The rhythmic gymnastics season ended with some short displays and a prizegiving in October.

Prize winners: Level 5 Christine Mihigo Level 6 Naledi Diale Level 7 Tshegofatso Modise Most hard-working gymnast - Christine Mihigo Top gymnast for the year - Tshegofatso Modise

Thank you to Lesedi Mochela and Reece Williams, the outgoing captains, for all they did for rhythmic gymnastics in 2022.

Thank you also to Lebone Tshetlo for all the hours spent coaching.

LINDA GIURICICH HEAD OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS



Christine Mihigo



Tshegofatsho Modise



Lesedi Mochela



Lebone Tshetlo



Naledi Diale

TARYN DE WINNAAR HEAD OF BASKETBALL

#### JUNIOR INTER-HOUSE BASKETBALL

This year's junior inter-house basketball competition was exciting, competitive, and played in superb spirit.

The teams are commended on their support of one another and their enthusiasm: every match was closely contested. No one could predict the outcome and it was not until the final whistle blew that the winner could be determined. This made for a wonderful afternoon of basketball for both the players and the spectators!

Final results: 1<sup>st</sup> Phelps 2<sup>nd</sup> Clayton 3<sup>rd</sup> Furse 4<sup>th</sup> Karney



Winners of inter-house basketball - Phelps House



Nandipha Gysman passing for Clayton



Furse inter-house basketball team



Nuhaa Mahomed shooting for Karney

#### **MUSIC CONCERT**

Please join our very own head of piano studies, Eugene Joubert, as he performs at this upcoming concert, scheduled for 20 November at Northwards in Parktown with the Pangea String Quartet!



### **ED-ADMIN**

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 you and your daughter's names and surnames for assistance.

• To access the St Mary's parent portal, please click on the link below or visit the school website on <u>www.stmarysschool.co.za</u> and click on the portal login on the top right of the page. <u>https://stmarysw.ed-space.net/pparentportal.cfm</u>

• 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.