



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

29 JULY 2022



Tel: 011 531 1800 | info@stmary.co.za | www.stmarysschool.co.za



Congratulations to our head girls elect for 2023: Mosa Mdladla (deputy head girl), Danika Neuhooff (head girl), Natalie Simon (deputy head girl)

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The schedule of the past two weeks has been filled with memorable and significant ceremonies and activities. On Mandela Day, we took a day off school to participate in service activities to support the church's relief work in KwaZulu-Natal. The day ended with a music concert and time to relax in The Close and soak up the spirit of camaraderie. Two days later we hosted a service of "lament and hope" in our chapel for the St Mary's Old Girls. This was a profound service with everyone who attended being noticeably moved by the power of our collective will to forge a future of hope for our school. The choir and musicians contributed their brilliance to creating memories in the chapel. And at the end of the week, we announced the head girl elect 2023 and the deputy head girls elect 2023 in an assembly, which erupted into joyous celebration for the candidates who now have the challenging task of leading the school.

This week has seen activity on campus with the start of the demolition of the Pitt Block. We will experience noise pollution and difficulty in moving around the campus but the general sentiment amongst pupils and staff is that it is worth the present disruption in order to enjoy the facilities of a new building, which we will occupy in January 2024.

I have mentioned music several times in this message because it has featured in both our events and as background to the daily activities. Music has wafted across the campus and seemingly drawn us together as a community. Mandela Day, SMOGS service, matrics' spontaneous singing in the corridors and the Junior School play rehearsals, have all brought singing and music to our days and lifted our spirits.

The end of term signals time to rest and renew ourselves. I wish the class of 2022 a holiday that provides a chance to prepare quietly and thoroughly for their preliminary examinations.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The Anglican-Catholic tradition is associated with shiny chalices, vestments, and a love for rituals. This love for beauty and ritual challenges the churches in poor communities. How do we justify such beauty when the people in our neighbouring communities are unemployed, cold, and starving? Priests such as E.B Pusey and F.D Maurice challenged Christians to do their part:

E.B Pusey's view was, *"we dare not deck our walls with pictures, while [humans], the image of God, and a representation of Christ, is not clothed"*. and

F.D Maurice believed that Christian responsibility not only cares for the poor but also asks why they are poor in the first place.

As a school it is:

Our duty to share our facilities and resources with disadvantaged schools and their pupils so that they too may grow into contributing members of our society and be able to take responsibility in the world of possibilities and opportunities that will open to them (Educational philosophy 6.6).

The Anglican (Anglo-Catholic) High Church tradition became known for its association with the poor. Their view in the church was that the poor are worthy of worship in beautiful places. As the saying goes: the most beautiful things are for the poorest in our midst.

The church, inspired by the beauty of its worship, is committed to and embraces serving the poor. The poor deserve the best of everything, not only bread but also roses.



REVD RAKGADI KHOBO
CHAPLAIN

MEET THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT



Carla Gordon
HOD
BA Hons (Wits), MA (UCT), HDE,
ACE (UNISA)



Brigid Rawlings
BA, PGCE (UNISA)

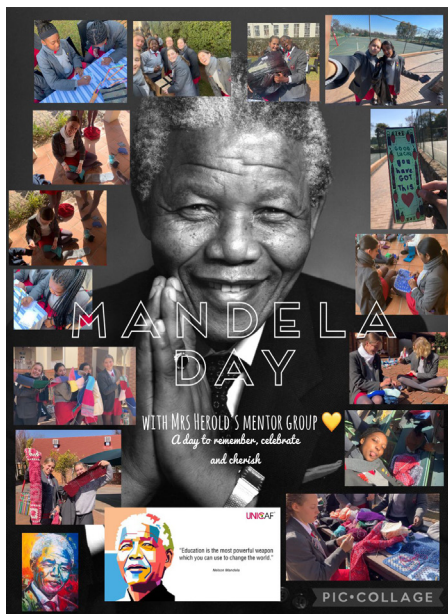


Seipati Shiakallis
BA, Dip Nutrition (UNISA)

MANDELA DAY

On Mandela Day, the Senior School girls began the day with a special mentor time that encouraged them to engage with the story and legacy of the late statesman. Following that, the girls were challenged either to write about what the day meant for them and their mentor groups or create a picture/video collage to document the various service activities scheduled. This enabled the girls to reflect on their duties as global citizens, most notably St Mary's core values of love, community and integrity. The challenge was also a fantastic opportunity for girls to show off their talents outside the academic space, show initiative and collaboration within their mentor groups, and have fun while doing so. As Nelson Mandela once said, "a fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of."

Our mentor groups can be proud of their efforts during this challenge.



Mrs Herold's mentor group



Mrs Devine's mentor group



Ms Makhalanyane's mentor group



Mrs Chigumba's mentor group



Ms Andrew's mentor group

SEIPATI SHIAKALLIS
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS

MANDELA DAY MUSIC SHOWCASE

The sense of community on Mandela Day could be felt in all aspects of the school. This was especially so in the Mandela Day music showcase, where teachers and pupils gathered on the steps of The Edge to celebrate and enjoy beautiful performances by both the Junior School, Senior School and special guest, Hannah Foster, a professional jazz singer.

The Junior School choir accompanied by the orchestra kicked off the showcase with a beautiful rendition of *The Circle of Life* from the movie *The Lion King*, a classic and true African story. This was followed by a groovy blues performed by the Grade 3 marimba group; a real treat which stole each heart in the audience. The junior string ensemble followed with a beautiful song, which included dance moves in between, while playing the violins – now that's impressive!

As the celebrations continued, it was time for everyone to get up from their seats and start dancing to the music. This was no problem once the Senior School marimba band took the floor with *Jerusalema*, a special song that united us during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Senior School orchestra followed by celebrating South African composers and bands. They started with an Abdullah Ibrahim medley reminiscent of a strong Ghoema drum beat, popular in the Cape Town jazz scene, a *Micasa medley* followed by a Mango Groove trip down memory lane – both arrangements by a South African composer and

educator, Alex Hitzeroth. To bring the Mandela Day festivities to a close, the Senior School jazz band played *Man in the Mirror*, and a crowd favorite, *Sunday Strut* composed by Mike Campbell, a South African music professor, bassist and composer. This was a fitting end to a memorable day of celebrating the life and legacy of the late Nelson Mandela who said, "Music is a great blessing. It has the power to elevate and liberate us. It sets people free to dream. It can unite us to sing with one voice."

DANIELLE MCKINNON
MUSIC TEACHER



Senior Instrumental concert

On Wednesday 13 July, 20 Senior School girls performed in a well-attended concert in The Edge theatre. The evening started with a magnificent performance by Mira Kathawaroo of the first movement from Beethoven's *Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 5, 'Spring'*, accompanied by Yana Gilbert. There were a variety of performances from solo piano, to string, wind and percussion instruments. Some clever concert programming by the Form III girls ensured that Chloé Mocke's funk drum solo and Francesca Genovese's alternative rock piece nestled perfectly alongside some exquisite classical music. There were some unusual repertoire choices including Freya Pinnock's beautiful performance of a *Thelonius Monk* classic on the clarinet, Tessa Dagut and Rebecca Trickett's fun clarinet duet and a saxophone duet by Victoria Staples and Sally-Louise Ingwe. Victoria and Sally-Louise performed a piece called *Road To Mozambique*, written by British saxophonist Will Gregory when once on tour in South Africa. The concert ended with extremely talented trumpeter Ella Stipinovich's performance of *Rondo for Lifey*, a lesser known piece by the great Leonard Bernstein.

Every girl who performed presented a polished piece. The poise and excellent playing demonstrated a wealth of music-making that continued despite the death of live public performances which the pandemic wrought. It certainly was enjoyable to hear a concert such as this again in our community. Well done to all the performers and thanks to family members for attending.

Jazz band performing at The Redhill Arts Festival on Sunday 31 July

The Senior School's jazz band has been hard at work preparing a set for the upcoming Sunday family picnic concert which rounds off the Redhill Arts Festival taking place this weekend. Our jazz band will perform on the main stage at 11h00. Do come and support and sample a wide variety of cultural events on offer at this exciting Arts Festival. For the programme, further information and to buy tickets, here is the link: <https://www.redhillartsfestival.co.za>

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES
MUSIC TEACHER



ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

On Mandela Day, the environmental awareness club did an Ecobrick service initiative in Diepsloot with Khensani's Collection. This was a worthwhile experience and a great way to get involved in the community in the true spirit of the 67 minutes campaign. We were encouraged to take 67 minutes out of the day for every one minute of every year that Mandela fought for human rights and social justice. We took packed lunches for the children, as well as the Ecobricks we have collected over the term to donate, as they use them to build classrooms for the children. This is incredible because the main focus of the Ecobrick project is to help alleviate the pollution caused by plastic litter which contributes to climate change. Khensani's Collection is making a huge difference because it builds classrooms with Ecobricks as part of its contribution to raising awareness about plastic pollution and how plastic can be turned into a useful cost-effective building material. The extra classrooms create more learning spaces for students who are learning in crowded classrooms. I was pleasantly surprised to see that the Khensani Collection centre has built two more green classrooms in the past year. They are solar powered and plan to find more innovative ways to expand their community in an environmentally friendly way. We were taught how to make Ecobricks using eco sand. These are strong enough to build the foundation of a house. They need to weigh a minimum of 3,5kgs. Ecobricks for the walls need to weigh at least 550g.

As always, working with Khensani's Collection was a wonderful experience and we look forward to working with them in the future.



JANE MCMURRAY
TEACHER IN CHARGE

GEOGRAPHY

On Friday 8 July, 16 African soccer teams comprising of Form I girls ran around in a frenzy as they embarked on the *Amazing Race*. The Form I Geography classes studied a section on world geography and development with a specific focus on Africa. The thinking behind this activity was to keep the girls engaged in challenges while drawing from multiple sets of mapwork and graphicacy skills, experiences and sources to aid and accelerate the learning process. A spirit of friendly competition, collaboration and effort were at the forefront as each team decided on a route to pursue and which creative strategies they could use to complete the tasks.

The girls also interacted with a world culture as challenges included performing a *Gwara gwara* dance, tasting and identifying Moroccan food, playing a board game; mancala, and trying their hand at Mali face painting and headwraps. The challenges entailed the use of class VR headsets which allowed them to marvel at the Okavango Delta. Each team had to upload a trailer and final video of their race.

Gauging from the favourable feedback received, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the educational value of this experience. Congratulations to the Espérance Sportive de Tunis team on winning this race in record time.

CINDY LEN AND ZIMKHITHA RAOLANE
GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS



Form III and Form IV Geography pupils complete the online South African Senior Geography Olympiad.



Form II development game:
The G7 enjoying the hospitality of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

FRENCH

Bastille Day, the French National Day or Fête Nationale, is celebrated on 14 July every year. Bastille Day commemorates 14 July 1789, when the storming of the Bastille prison by angry Parisian crowds took place, sparking the French Revolution. Francophiles around the world celebrate Bastille Day with cuisine, parades and music à la française.

In the St Mary's community, we celebrated Bastille Day in all its glory and festivities. On Wednesday 13 July, the French girls celebrated French culture. They dressed up in their tricoloured outfits of red, white, and blue, had them judged by our French queens of fashion, and hosted a school assembly where the Form II girls sang a French song and led the school in a few school war cries in French. The Form V girls read the day's Bible reading and prayed in French. They led the rest of the assembly in English with perfect French accents.

St Mary's first Bastille Day assembly was held in 2012 and the French girls have many happy memories associated with it over the years. At first break, our French girls sold freshly baked chocolate croissants and hot chocolate for everyone to enjoy. Vive la France! Bonne Fête Nationale!

MEGAN KENCH
FORM IV



VISUAL ARTS

Old Masters paintings

The Form III Visual Art students experimented with multiple painting styles in their Old Masters project. They were tasked with recreating a well-known artwork in the style of another artist. They looked at styles such as pointillism, surrealism and impressionism. Their pieces were a new take on a familiar image as they grappled with the stylistic challenges brought on by their choice of artist pairings.

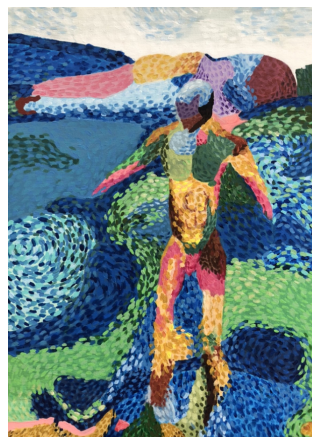
DANIELLE MOWATT
HOD: VISUAL ARTS



Lana Fuzile



Hannah Borner



Alice Thiel



Reabetswe Mntambo

SELF-ESTEEM



The Form I project this term asked the question: 'Can you survive a digital detox?' The students were required to hand in their devices and encouraged to engage with one another without the distraction of social media.

The intention of unplugging to reconnect - *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: OLD SCHOOL* by Jeff Kinney - was to realise that it is okay to unplug for a little while. We wanted to encourage a shift towards interacting with peers in the present and appreciating one another's company. As a work ethic, it is important to reduce the noise and focus on what is needed.

The students experienced 'vintage' arts and crafts that included embossing, origami, crochet, silk-screening and scrapbooking. There was also a significant focus on the vast benefits of journaling. A highlight of the project was to build a tent, chairs and table cloths out of found materials. The final product was to design and develop a game or activity and identify the psychological, cognitive and physiological benefits.

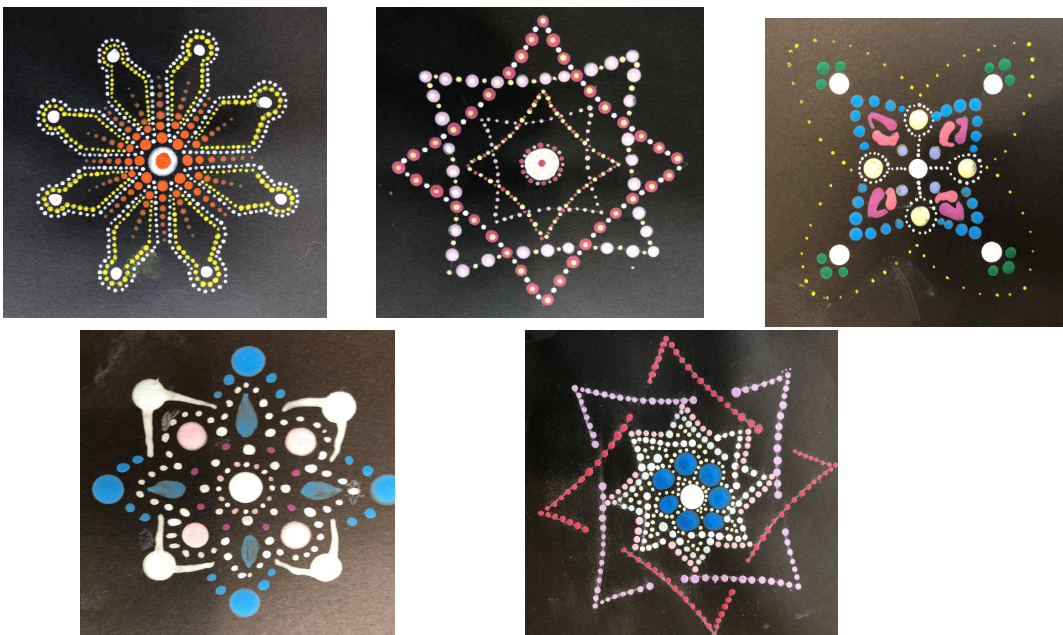
What was marvellous to witness was that when the Form I girls would usually revert to their phones, they were engaged in conversation or were playing fun physical or verbal games. It was certainly a worthwhile project.

JANE MCMURRAY
HOD: CULTURALS

MANDALAS

On a Monday in the 9th lesson, Form I and Form IV girls have a dotting lesson. Mandalas are used as a tool for meditation and dotting is an art practice that everyone can master. The key components to dotting are patience, focus and allowing your creativity to flow.

CHARLENE BUDDINGH
AFRIKAANS TEACHER



TENNIS

The St Mary's U17A and B tennis teams participated in the Gauteng Central District Event for the BNP Paribas Rising Stars tournament at Ellis Park. Both teams played excellent tennis with the A team winning the event by beating Helpmekaar A in the final. The B team lost to St Stithians A in the first round but then went on to beat both Parktown A and Randburg Hoërskool A to clinch fifth place. Congratulations to Moroesi Tuoane, Bailey Selvam, Bashali Phatshwane and Madison Corbett who played in the A team and Kirsten Hadiaris, Erin Krüger, Emma van Zyl and Sarah Hewat who played in the B team.

Congratulations are extended to Lilitha Ndungane who has achieved some excellent results in the past few weeks on the tennis court:

Lilitha placed third in the women's singles event in both the Gauteng Central and Gauteng East Growthpoint Events and, together with Sarah Millard (matric 2021), won both the doubles titles in these tournaments. Lilitha has been selected as a member of the prestigious Wiphold Squad and will be competing against the top juniors in the world in the coming few weeks.

Congratulations to Moroesi Tuoane who has also been competing in various tournaments. Moroesi won the singles title in the GN mini event and came fourth in the U16 singles event in the GE Growthpoint tournament.

RENÉ PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



U17 A team for Rising Stars



U17 B team for Rising Stars



Bailey Selvam



Emma Van Zyl and Sarah Hewat

NETBALL



In late June, the netball teams played in the D13 league championships hosted at St Stithians. They played the promotion/relegation fixture against St Dunstan's and won the fixture. St Mary's netball has now been promoted to the D13 A league.

On the same evening, the U14 A, U16 A and the U17 A participated in the D13 play-offs. The U17 team won a bronze medal and the U14 team won a gold medal.

Well done to our netball girls on a successful season.

PALESA MASINGA
HEAD OF NETBALL

HOCKEY

The hockey season, for most teams, has sadly come to an end. The last matches were played against St Andrew's and the results are as follows:

U14 A won 5-0
 U14 B won 7-1
 U15 A won 2-0
 U15 B won 2-0
 U16 A won 8-0
 1st team won 5-0

Congratulations to the U14 A team that have won their last three matches. They beat St Andrew's 5-0, Affies 1-0 and St Stithians 1-0. They have made significant progress throughout the season and can be very proud of this improvement.

The U16 A and 1st teams are currently participating in the Howell and Pullen trophies. The U16 A team beat Roedean 1-0 in the quarter-final but, unfortunately, they lost the semi-final on a shoot out to Garsfontein. The 1st team has played some exceptional hockey. They beat Helpmekaar 5-0 in the quarter-final and Noorheuwel 5-0 in the semi-final. The final playoffs will be contested on Saturday 30 July.

These teams will test themselves against the best in the country at their respective Top 12 tournaments. We wish all our players the best of luck for these tough matches.

CINDY BROWN
 HEAD OF HOCKEY



U14 A team



The St Mary's 1st hockey team, celebrating with their supporters, after making it to the finals in the 2022 Howell Pullen competition

PTA CLUB 100

Term III PTA Club 100 winners

10% : Katherine Quiding Form II

20% : Sienna Silcock Grade 4

100%: Cara Kilian Form II

COMEDY



Proudly presented by the HOPE committee and the Parents' Association

A line up of South Africa's finest comedians to perform at The Edge in what is set to be an entertaining night of hilarity, with all funds raised being donated to the Ikusasa Lethu Programme.

In the face of stage six loadshedding, rising fuel prices and all the other things being thrown at us, we can all agree that some great comedy and laughter could help calm our shattered nerves!

Fret no more because the HOPE committee and Parents' Association have joined forces to proudly present the first ever *Stand Up St Mary's* Comedy Show.

This comedy extravaganza will take place at The Edge on Thursday 8 September and will feature a spectacular line up of some of the country's funniest men and women. Confirmed to set the stage on fire are Rob van Vuuren, Carvin Goldstone, Ndumiso Lindi, Tracey Lee Oliver, Chris Forrest and Lihle Msimang.

To accentuate what is already set to be a great experience, a cash bar and food stalls will be open before the show so essentially you can come out, let your hair down, have a drink, grab some food and enjoy a night out at the comedy with other grown-ups.... doesn't that sound fabulous?

It gets better....all this will be for a worthy cause! By buying tickets, you'll be helping to raise funds for Ikusasa Lethu - St Mary's Saturday School programme that has assisted and touched the lives of countless learners from the five high schools in Alexandra and surrounding communities.

As devastating as the Covid pandemic has been on all of us, these communities have been affected for more and the need to support this incredible initiative becomes even more important.

We really hope that the broader St Mary's community "Stands Up" and comes out in numbers to support this worthy cause while enjoying a night of light-hearted entertainment and fun. Here's to Love, Community, Integrity.

The show has a no under 18 age restriction. Besides that, there are no other restrictions or limit to how many tickets you may purchase. Tickets are going for R200 and are available at Quicket: <https://www.quicket.co.za/events/178565-stand-up-st-marys-comedy-show/#/>

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 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 www.stmarysschool.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 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.