

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

4 March 2022



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Clean sweep: Furse house, the winners of the inter-house gala, spirit cup and inter-house music on Thursday 24 February

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

In the newsletters of this term, I have written about our enjoyment of learning and teaching on campus; the benefits of social and emotional development that come with being in a school environment; the co-curricular programme which complements classroom learning and self-discovery; the value of time for reflection and spiritual growth; and the fun and school spirit that is shared at events. These are the aspects of school which have given us immense pleasure this term, together with time to reconnect and to enjoy being in community.

The daily academic offering, although it may not have conjured the same enthusiasm, has progressed smoothly with successful collaboration between pupils and teachers. A unique aspect of our academic programme is self-eSTEAM, offered in Form I and Form II.

This is a project-based approach to learning, which has developed in iterations over a number of years. The focus is on the development of skills highlighted as essential for tertiary study and for the future of work. The Form IIs are currently in a self-eSTEAM module for six days. They will have a school day outside of the usual structures of the curriculum and classroom where they will tackle a real-life experience or problem.

The self-eSTEAM curriculum includes learning about self and the fostering of an entrepreneurial mindset, together with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. At its core is the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills within the ambit of a human-centred approach. The expectation is for the Form IIs to gain experience in problem exploration, cocreation, and connecting with knowledge and systems. These are ideals of learning, which may seem beyond the reach of Form II pupils but when the final projects are on display and presented, the girls surprise teachers and parents with their depth of thinking, creativity, and the interrogation of realities. Areas of challenge for the girls lie in collaboration and time management.

The Form Is can look forward to their self-eSTEAM days next term.

DEANNE KING HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The main themes of Lent are well articulated in the readings and the symbols for Ash Wednesday. Ashes were used to express mourning, remorse, and penitence in ancient times. "My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

The Lent cycle is interesting as it does not leave us in the dark. It offers us a way of speaking about death and new life in symbols and imagery of Christian hope. "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).

Liturgically, the season of Lent marks the start of the redemption cycle. AJ Bethke (South African organist, music composer and liturgist) examines the musical links between the liturgy and music. He describes the redemption cycle as a celebration of the mystery of divine suffering and triumph over death. The theme of redemption is essential for us as a school to emphasise. Part of the learning process is that we will make mistakes. What matters is correcting our mistakes and doing better. This cycle is reflected in our approach to issues of discipline and justice.

Dr Huysamer often reminds staff to check in with the girls to see if they are still on track. If they are not, there is enough time to correct their mistake and get back on track. The cycle of redemption needs to be repeated regularly. This repetition is reflected in the readings for Lent being the same each year.

Lent is a time to slow down and pause to pay attention — inwardly and outwardly.

We wish everyone a fruitful Lent.

REVD RAKGADI KHOBO CHAPLAIN



IKUSASA LETHU

While St Mary's enjoyed the half-term break, the Ikusasa Lethu learners were having an amazing day on Saturday 26 February.

The Sizanani mentorship programme organised an array of guest speakers for the Grade 11 and 12 learners during their Life Orientation sessions. They had the opportunity to listen to the CEO of Bombela, one of the Sizanani Mentorship programme's principal funders, and attended discussion groups around depression, anxiety, and practising mindfulness.

All of our learners were thrilled to receive branded water bottles from Ikusasa Lethu, so we have finally moved away from the polystyrene cups and towards more sustainable alternatives.

In the coming weeks, we are looking forward to a drone demonstration, the distribution of the bags and stationery we have organised for the learners, and countless more educational and uplifting experiences.



ROBYN KNOWLES HEAD OF IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME

MEET THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Xanthipi Theophanous HoD BA, PGCE (Wits)



James Beall BBus Sci, LLB (UCT), PGCE (UNISA)



Jessica Bucher BA Hons, LLB, PGDip Law (Wits) PGCE (UNISA)



Emily Dingle BA Hons (UCT), PGCE (NWU)



Shea Fourie BComm (Stellenbosch), PGDM (UCT), PGCE (UNISA)



Lynn Knowles BA, HDE (Natal), TDK (K Net)



BA, MA (Wits), HDE (UNISA)



Nthabiseng Raseala BA Hons, PGCE (Wits)



Bronwen Roberts
BA PDM (WBS), PGCE (Wits)



Felicia Tobias BA Hons, HDE (Wits)

INTER-HOUSE MUSIC AND DANCE

Inter-house music and dance is a highly-anticipated house event which requires a lot of preparation from the girls. Many details must be carefully planned to ensure successful execution. In order to produce one cohesive showcase, technical aspects such as lighting, timing and cues have to be considered alongside a creative way of incorporating all four elements of a solo, dance, an ensemble item and a house number.

The music that was showcased this year was amazing. Considering the setbacks of the postponement of this house event from the end of last year, all of the houses' musicians returned this year with incredible enthusiasm and dedication to their performances during this busy term. The enormous amount of hard work and effort, with the extra rehearsals on weekends and after hours, was evident from the fantastic performances. Congratulations to all the soloists who each received a full score from our adjudicator, Ms McKinnon. The ensembles were a perfect example of collaboration and teamwork among a variety of musicians across the Forms. We were able to watch performers who were familiar with performing at inter-house music, and newer girls who debuted their talents for the first time after the Covid-19 regulations were eased. The house numbers were filled with energy and excitement and were creatively executed. To the inter-house-musicians of 2022 - it was a pleasure to hear your fabulous showcase of talent.

Each house also showcased an amazing dance number which captured the audience's attention from beginning to end. The adjudicators commented on the difficulty they had when scoring each house because each was both unique and spectacular. The choreography was technically intricate and entertaining with a mixture of styles such as hip-hop and contemporary. Each dancer performed to the best of her ability, showcasing skill and passion. It was incredible to watch the dancers and musicians perform again this year for inter-house dance and music.

MIRA KATHAWAROO AND TALSIA ROSSINI FORM V





EQUESTRIAN

SANESA inter-schools qualifier 1: Saturday 19 February - 20 Sunday February at Eaton Farm

- 11 riders
- 15 horses
- 40 classes entered
- 34 placings
- 14 first places
- 4 second places
- 4 third places

Second overall after qualifier 1.

Jenna Blaauw (Form I) and her partner placed first in the SANESA equestrian Barrel pairs competition (vaulting at the highest level) which took place on 5 February.

Congratulations to Jade Anderson (Form I) who has been selected to compete for South Africa in the upcoming children's show jumping championships in Algeria next month.

Noticeable achievements of each rider:

Name:	Horse:	Place:	Discipline:
Jade Anderson	Lipizza Bannut Ooh La La	1 st	Show Jumping: 120cm A2
		1 st	Show Jumping: 120cm Normal
Riley Bate	Cocorico	1 st	Show Jumping: 100cm A2
		1 st	Equitation: Level 4 90cm
		1 st	Working Hunter: Level 5 90cm
		5 th	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice
Sienna Blaauw	Gondor UFO	1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 7 Open test 1
		1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 7 Open test 2
		1 st	Level 7 Performance riding
		2 nd	Dressage: Level 6 Medium
		3 rd	Equitation: Level 7 110cm
	Kathmandu	1 st	Show Jumping: 110cm A2
		2 nd	Show Jumping: 110cm Normal
Jenna Blaauw	Chandon	1 st	Dressage:Elementary Test 2
		2 nd	Dressage: Elementary Test 1
	Kartouche	1 st	Equitation: Level 7 110cm
		1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 6 Advanced test 1
		1 st	Prix Caprilli: Level 6 Advanced test 2
		2 nd	Dressage Level 6 (Medium)
Katherine Franck	Rossgate Wyvern Libelle	3 rd	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice
		4 th	Equitation: Level 6 100cm
		4 th	Show Jumping: 100cm Normal
		6 th	Show Jumping: 110cm A2
Erin Jackson	El Vanna	1 st	Equitation: Level 6 100cm
		8 th	Dressage: Novice Test 1

Emma Lowndes	Silent Night	4 th	Show Jumping: 80cm A2
		4 th	Prix Caprilli: Level 3 Novice
Sydney Pollock	Voigtskirch Amarosso	3 rd	Performance riding: Level 7
		5 th	Dressage: Elementary Test 1
		6 th	Dressage: Elementary Test 2
Olivia Sorour	Callaho Conchetta	1 st	Working Hunter: Level 7 100cm
Amanda Wilford	Pegasus Cabernet	2 nd	Dressage:Preliminary Test 1
		6 th	Dressage: Preliminary Test 2
	Pegasus	9 th	Show Jumping: 80cm A2

MELANIE BLAIR TEACHER IN CHARGE







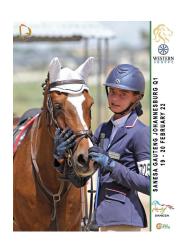


















Congratulations

CHILDREN TEAM - COACH Chad Cunningham Cody Sander Ella Murphy Chazelle Smith JUNIOR TEAM - COACH Barry Taylor Alexander Ric Hansen Thomas van Rijckevorsel Ashlee Taylor

ACES CHILDREN AND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS CSIOCh & CSIOJ 21st – 26th March 2022 - ALGERIA

Jenna Blaauw

SWIMMING

Since our wonderful win at the National Aquatics Festival on Friday 11 February, lightning has wreaked havoc with galas. Most disappointing is that we could not host the annual night gala. This is a 10-lane gala, and these times are used at the last chance to improve times and earn a place in the inter-high teams. Most of the girls have remained committed and attended training in the dwindling light of the summer mornings.

We have missed our feathered team members this year and are pleased to announce that they made an appearance for their inter-high selection this week. Four goslings have been hard at work with the swimmers!



We have a few days until the moment for which we have worked so hard, sustain your effort for the last stretch. I think the quote below from Ted Engstrom says it all:

"The rewards for those who persevere far exceed the pain that must preceed the victory"



GOLF

Congratulations to Samantha Whateley (FV) who shared the trophy with Megan Streicher from Western Province at the North West Ladies' Open Golf Championships over the weekend. After two rounds, both girls ended with a score of 16 under par. This is simply amazing golf. Added to this, Gia Raad placed tie 14th and Oliva Krige tie 22nd. Well done, golfers.



Megan Streicher and Samantha Whateley

ROWING

It is with great pride that we announce that Caitlin Dace, who is the head of rowing at St Mary's, will be joining the RMB national coaching team as the head junior national coach and co-ordinator. Caitlin is well known in the junior rowing community, as she has successfully developed and led our rowing club to be one of the most successful and dominant clubs in the country. We wish her all the best as she takes up this new position and works to improve junior rowing in the country.



Caitlin Dace

INDOOR HOCKEY

It is also with pride that we announce that Taryn (Div) de Winnaar, our head of sport, has been appointed as the convenor of selection for South African ladies' indoor hockey team. She will hold this position until the 2025 Indoor Hockey World Cup. We wish Div all the best in this endeavor.

We would also like to congratulate Kristy Leonard (FV) who has been selected as a member of the Southern Gauteng Senior A indoor hockey team to play at the inter-provincial tournament in KwaZulu-Natal this week.

INDOOR NETBALL

Sincere congratulations to Natalia Aristides (FIII) who has been selected to represent the Eastern Gauteng junior action netball, U16 A team, and Abigail Van Zyl (FI) who has been selected for the Central Gauteng U14 team to play at the annual inter-provincial action netball tournament, later this month.



Kristy Leonard



Taryn (Div) de Winnaar



Natalia Aristides



Abigail Van Zyl

QUIX DIRECTOR OF SPORT

TENNIS

All the tennis teams have fared exceptionally well over the past two weeks. The 1st team beat both Linden Hoërskool and St Stithians to end unbeaten and to win the Premier League in a convincing fashion. The 2nd team is also unbeaten in their league pool and beat both Hoërskool Randburg and Assumption Convent in their pool games. The 3rd team continues to compete well against the 1st teams from opposing schools and congratulations to the 4th team which is still unbeaten in their pool.

Our school championships are almost completed, except for one event, and I thank all the players who made the effort and time to compete in these events. Our inter-house tennis event was great fun! Well done to Phelps for outplaying all the other houses.

I extend my thanks to Mrs Corbett, Mrs Lowndes and Ms Millard for all their help and assistance over the past season. Lastly, thank you to the captains, Tyrah Cook and Isha Madhu, for doing an amazing job and to all the tennis players on their phenomenal results.

League Results

15 February

St Mary's A beat Linden A 43-20

St Mary's B beat Linden B 43-20

St Mary's C beat Randburg A 32-31

St Mary's D beat Randburg B 41-22

St Mary's E beat Roedean C 45-36

St Mary's F beat Roedean D 65-16

St Mary's G beat Steyn City A 36-27

St Mary's H beat Steyn City B 56-7

22 February

St Mary's A beat St Stithians A 44-19

St Mary's B beat St Stithians B 58-5

St Mary's C lost to Assumption A 27-36

St Mary's D beat Assumption B 53-10

St Mary's E lost to Randpark A 51-12

St Mary's F beat Randpark B 36-15

St Mary's G beat Marist Brothers A 35-28

St Mary's H beat Marist Brother B 37-26

St Mary's Reserves beat Waverley A 50-13



Clayton



Phelps

Results of the school championships Forms I and II

Singles winner: Moroesi Tuoane

Runner-up: Ilana Buck

Doubles winners: Moroesi Tuoane and Bashali Phatshwane

Runners up: Bailey Selvam and Mackenzie Summers

Forms III-V

Doubles winners: Tyrah Cook and Lilitha Ndungane Runners-up: Tayla Gibbs and Ava Economakis



First team league winners 2022



Karney



Furse

RENÉ PLANT HEAD OF TENNIS

ROWING



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 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.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.