

Artwork taken from this year's inaugural St Mary's Arts Festival poster (see page 8 for more information on the festival)

## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

The Senior School girls presented a message to the school this week about Mandela Day. It was a call to action for all the girls to realise their individual power to transform our society and to make a contribution to humanitarianism. Their message was in stark contrast to the unrest, rioting and lawless activity that has besieged our country, and has left us feeling overwhelmed, angry, sad, vulnerable and hopeless.

For Don M. - Banned by Mongane Serote

*it is a dry white season  
dark leaves don't last, their brief lives dry out  
and with a broken heart they dive down gently headed for the earth,  
not even bleeding.  
it is a dry white season brother,  
only the trees know the pain as they still stand erect  
dry like steel, their branches dry like wire,  
indeed, it is a dry white season  
but seasons come to pass.*

\*Don M.\* is the poet Don Mattera

Notice board - Please see page 11 for all our important notices

During this same week, on a visit to Little Saints who are on campus, I was captivated by the rich learning, the happy engagement of the children and teachers, and the privilege of this environment, which contrasts so starkly with the experiences of the majority of children in South Africa. The juxtaposition of an experience at St Mary's with that of the broader experience beyond our gates has permeated my whole week.

I was grateful to a colleague who shared with me the messages between ordinary citizens who began mobilising on social media to volunteer their help in cleaning up after the mess that was left in the aftermath of looting. This show of citizenship was reinforced on local TV stations that showed citizens taking back their streets and cleaning up. The actions of ordinary people and the spirit of community were extraordinary. Mandela Day, and its call to action suddenly took on new meaning for me.

When we are overwhelmed with emotion, it is easy to lose ourselves and turn to anger and despair but what matters is how we react.

DEANNE KING  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE

*1 Thessalonians 1:3*

*We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Faith, hope, and love are a common theme throughout religious writings. They slide glibly off the tongue but perhaps it is a good time to re-examine these and reflect on their significance.

So much of what has been demanded of us in the last 18 months has drawn on our faith. We have needed to show faith in our medical experts and by extension those in power. We have trusted that those around us have done their best to protect themselves and those around them. You have put your faith in the school to find a way to continue with your daughter's education. We have also needed to return to our faith in God. We have been reminded that it is not through our strength but through God's that we can weather this storm.

Love is evident in our community. The support and love shown to families who have lost loved ones has been remarkable. The unfailing generosity of all has made a difference in so many people's lives - whether it be making sandwiches, creating care packages, baking muffins, or connecting with people who are isolated. A consequence of the last 18 months has been a reduction in tolerance as we have forgotten how to be in relationship with each other. Our country seems to be rife with war and disaster and love frequently feels absent. God asks us to love unconditionally, not just

our families, but all people. Each small act of love - a hug (in your bubble), an extra R5 for a car guard, an email or sms to someone you have not connected with for a while - counteracts the seeming wave of negativity we feel.

I have left "endurance inspired by hope" until last. Some years ago, Angela Duckworth and her associates at the university of Pennsylvania brought the idea of 'grit' to the forefront - this is not a new idea - Francis Dalton and before him Aristotle referred to "tenacity" and wondered about the human ability to access hidden depths. Teachers frequently talk about grit. We wonder if we encourage the development of this in our students and ourselves. Covid-19 and the recent unrest seen in our country has tested our "grit". I do believe that what keeps us going at St Mary's is our "endurance inspired by hope". Simply interacting with the girls whether it be in person (which is always preferable) or online inspires us with hope. From this pandemic and this past week's terrible destructive behaviour, many seeds have been sown for a future that looks different. It is our children who will have the power to bring this to fruition. God has set the example for us - it is through hope - that we will survive this, not just survive, but prosper.

LYNN NORTHMORE  
HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE, HOD: LIFE ORIENTATION



# LITTLE SAINTS

The children at Little Saints have been exploring rainbows. We love all the colours in a rainbow and have had fun learning about them and how they are made of light. We have worked together to collage a large rainbow with tissue paper and loose parts. We have painted rainbows with watercolours and added salt to make it sparkle. We even made our own rainbow with water and a CD! When asked how rainbows make you feel, the children responded “happy” and “it makes me smile”. In these uncertain times, we hope our rainbows can offer a glimmer of hope to all.

CELIA DIANA  
HOD: LITTLE SAINTS



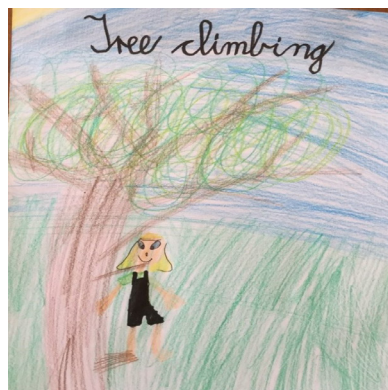
# JUNIOR PRIMARY MEDIA CENTRE NEWS

In Book-Ed this past week, we explored hidden talents through the wonderful book *Penguin's Hidden Talent* by Alex Latimer. Mostly, girls submitted videos - of them cooking, singing, playing instruments, doing cartwheels and handstands, climbing, knitting, even crossing their eyes. It was lovely seeing the pride and pleasure they took in sharing their skills. Here are a few drawings by some pupils who chose to illustrate their hidden talents.

ROSA ELK  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN



Ntokomalo Ntuli



Nancy Wood



Warona Shuping



# ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

The English Olympiad is a challenging assessment which is written by over 8 000 pupils nationally and is overseen by the De Beers Foundation and the South African Council for English Education. We are extremely proud of the St Mary's girls who extended their English education by attending lectures and writing this assessment.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sazi Bongwe from our brother school, St John's College, who achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the national English Olympiad and to Stephanie Bergesen (Form IV ) who placed 9<sup>th</sup>. More than this, 14 girls achieved silver and five achieved bronze. Congratulations to the girls on their excellent results :

**Diamond 1 90%+**  
Stephanie Bergesen

**Gold 10 80-89%**  
Caitlin Bloom  
Joanne Futselaar  
Danielle Grobbelaar  
Hayley Laithwaite  
Emma Lowndes  
Lesedi Mochela  
Gopolang Mohlakola  
Danika Neuhoff  
Anna Shaw  
Veronica Thongoana



Stephanie Bergesen

LYNN KNOWLES  
ENGLISH TEACHER

# CELEBRATING MARUBINI

Marubini Koka is in Form IV. She is the youngest author to have her work featured in the newly published book *Write To Speak*, which is a collection of stories written by African women leaders. All other authors featured in this book are adults.

*Write To Speak* was edited by our former ambassador to Sweden, Nozipho January-Bardill and was launched on Monday 28 June at the UN Women Generation Equality event which took place in Paris and virtually.

Taken from marketing material:

*Write To Speak* is a collection of stories told by women from 23 African nations about their individual journeys along some of life's toughest terrain - social justice and gender equality; of barriers, hurdles, struggles and the proverbial glass ceiling. They also narrate their successes and their moments of jubilation. These are stories of determination and hope that will inspire other women the world over to live a powerful and impactful life and 'write' wrongs with their own journeys and stories. We all have the 'write' to speak.

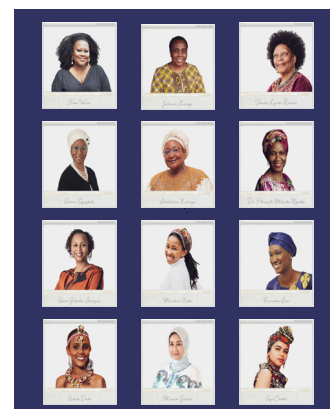
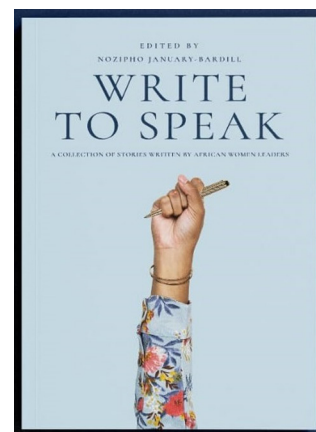
*Write To Speak* was further fuelled and inspired by the conclusion of the African Women's Decade in 2020;- an African Union tribute, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995.

Well done, Marubini!

KATHY MITTENDORF  
HEAD OF MARKETING



Marubini Koka



## ABOUT WRITE TO SPEAK AUTHORS

Within the pages of *Write To Speak* are powerfully penned stories of African women leaders spanning the length and breadth of the African continent.

They are social entrepreneurs, founders and leaders of organizations, across different sectors. They include executives and board members of large, medium and small enterprises. They are activists, civil servants, lawyers, doctors, sportswomen and students

Our oldest author is over 80 and our youngest is 16

### OUR TEAM

The team and talent partners that have collaboratively brought this book and project to life are women spanning all generations from several countries in Africa.

## SELF-ESTEAM: *HIDDEN FIGURES*

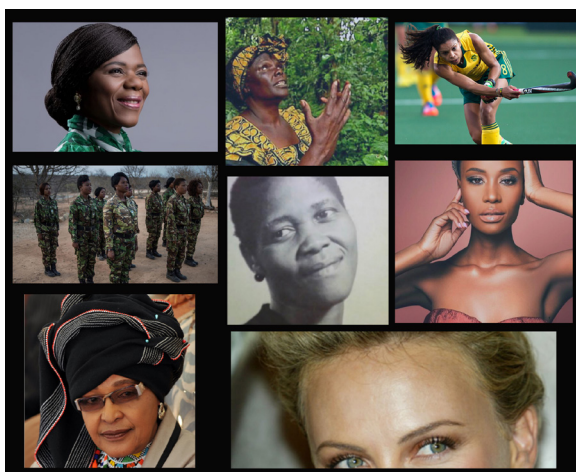
The Form Is completed their first self-eSTEAM project on Friday 9 July. It was a whirlwind experience as we condensed an eight-day interactive project with outings and guest speakers into a five-day research task with webinars and online quests.

The inspiration for this project came from the 2016 film *Hidden Figures*. This biographical drama follows the story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space programme (IMDb) without much regard or recognition. Our starting point or essential question was : *Can you identify and research a woman in Africa who has made a significant contribution to society and who inspires you to make a difference in your community?*

The women selected as research subjects by the individual students ranged from Marsha Cox to Zozibini Tunzi, and from political stalwarts to environmental activists. What a privilege to be reminded of the fantastic wealth of talent, ingenuity, determination and passion of the women in Africa! Most special of all were the students who wrote about the 'real' hidden figures that work tirelessly within their communities without much praise or recognition. It was wonderful to be able to honour these women and to share their stories.

Many of these biographical stories, along with illustrations and embedded videos, will be shared on our digital library platform to be enjoyed by everyone in the St Mary's community. We encourage you to read through some of the projects when they are shared on the digital library.

JANE MCMURRAY  
HOD: CULTURALS



## NATIONAL ARTS AND JAZZ FESTIVALS

For the first time in years, St Mary's , did not send a tour in 2020 to the National Youth Jazz Festival in Makhanda. Sadly, the pandemic again brought dashed hopes for a live festival in 2021. Keeping the spirit of music-making and connection alive, the festival organisers have gone all out to procure a digital festival for a second year running. This was made possible with generous support from Standard Bank.

Alongside recorded performances from around the country, a decision was made this year to still select two national youth bands through a process of recorded auditions. This year, I was invited to participate on several selection panels which met over Zoom to select members of the 2021 National Youth Band and National Schools Band. Jazz educators from around the country came together to decide on the candidates, and two bands of extraordinarily talented young musicians were selected and brought together to rehearse and record.

The youth band worked with award-winning pianist and composer Nduduzo Makhathini and the first-ever small ensemble schools band (usually a big band) were directed by Cape Town-based bass player and educator Shaun Johannes.

To enjoy the products of many jazz artists who are producing work despite the massive challenges Covid-19 has wrought, do buy a ticket to the online 2021 National Arts Jazz Festival:

<https://nationalartsfestival.co.za/category/naf2021/naf-online/standard-bank-jazz-festival-2021/>

The St Mary's jazz band girls will be given access to the digital jazz festival, and will also be able to watch some recorded jazz workshops. They can catch me in conversation with trumpeter, bandleader and composer Marcus Wyatt and bass player Romy Brauteseth about three online projects they have conceived during the pandemic. Watch their *Out Of The Loop* on the jazz festival, and for jazz fans out there, if you do not already know of these wonderful online concerts (freely available), do explore the *House on the Hill* series which showcases the South African jazz community:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyOTbV3-ZgyBfrcspr62G1w>

Marcus Wyatt's series of astounding lockdown improvisations *Alone Together* on his youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MarcusWyatt>

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES  
JAZZ BAND DIRECTOR

# MUSIC

Several students from the piano department have been preparing to make the recordings for their upcoming ABRSM and Trinity practical examinations. Since these will be done virtually, they have been recording run-throughs of their programmes at home.

We wish them the best of luck and commend their commitment to their piano studies.

They are (from l to r):

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

- Thandile Koti
- Kimaya Shah-Naidoo
- Jessica Maher
- Julia Potter
- Astrid Blair

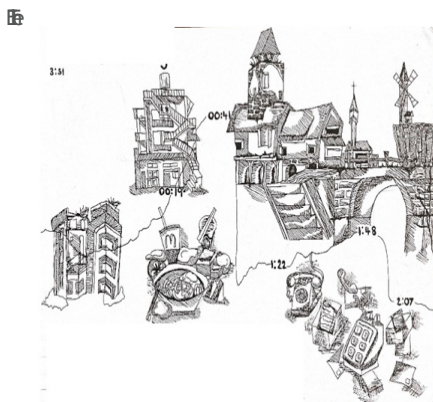
### SENIOR SCHOOL

- Emily Alston
- Tenjiwe Sithole
- Danelia Price-Hughes

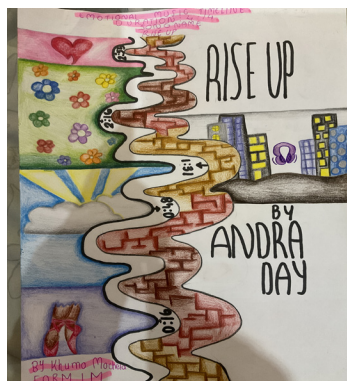


**EUGENE JOUBERT**  
HEAD OF PIANO STUDIES

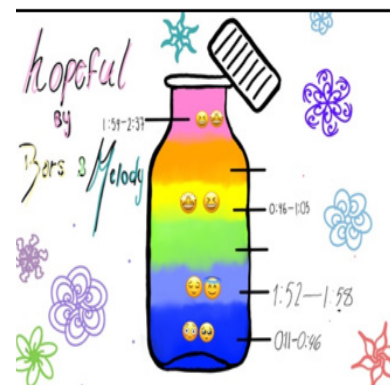
The Form 1s have been exploring music and how it affects the brain. Surprisingly, we all noted similar experiences when listening to music in class. Music evoked different memories, emotions and feelings for each of us. The Form 1s did a project where they each picked their favourite song and whilst listening to the song created an art piece, highlighting moments where they experienced a certain memory or emotion. They then explored their experiences by reflecting on what the music evoked for them in a written piece. See examples of pupil's drawings below:



Milla Morse



Khumo Mochela



Tanyaradzwa Pfende

The Form IIs have been exploring Foley Sound Art: a musical artform that recreates everyday sounds in television, movies and radio such as, a door banging, footsteps and many others. The Form IIs were tasked with filming their own video and recreating the Foley sounds, as well as including background music by using various music technology skills. The Form IIs had a taste of what it may be like working as a Foley Sound Artist and expressed the following comments after completing the assignment:

“It was fun searching around the house for objects that would make the sounds we were looking for.” Kate Williams

“It was pretty interesting and fun to learn the history and how it came to be.” Reabetswe Mashoeng

“It was really interesting finding out how shows and movies use Foley techniques and I found it so cool that we got to practice some of them.” Alice Thiel



Groups got creative and used online platforms to record their videos and Foley sounds. Pictured above is a group from Form IIs (Ramadimetja Montjane, Donna Cloete, Pebetse Duba and Ciara Lynch).

Foley videos will be aired during the St Mary’s Arts Festival.

DANIELLE MCKINNON  
MUSIC TEACHER

The Singing Angels have been successfully rehearsing remotely for the Family Day service planned for the third term. Our girls are learning witty and fun new lyrics to some of our favourite songs with Mrs Frahm-Arp. Below is a picture of the Grade 2s in remote rehearsal.

Well done to Adetoyin Adetunji (Grade 6), who played solo clarinet in virtual assembly this week. She played *Early Doors*, composed by Ned Bennet, with much pizzazz! Herewith the link:

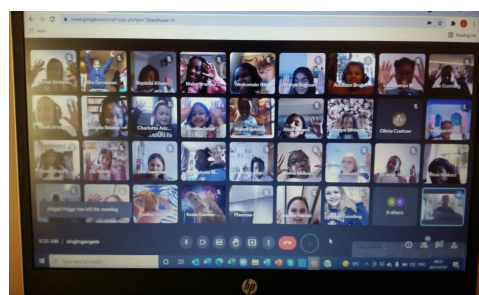
<https://youtu.be/spzRat6qjaw>

Whether on campus or learning remotely, we cherish every day and revel in what is possible.

#### Daybreak

*My heart swells that the Universe  
like a fiery cascade may enter.  
The new day comes. Its coming  
Leaves me breathless.  
I sing. Like a cavern brimming  
I sing my new day.*

Excerpt from the poem *Daybreak* by Gabriela Mistral (Pseudonym): real name Lucila Godoy Alcayaga who was the first Spanish American poet to receive a Nobel Prize for Literature



GEORGE POTGIETER  
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



## THE VIRTUAL ARTS FESTIVAL



**Re** imagine/ignite/contextualise/do/build/write... you name it, artists all over the world have had to relook at how to practice their craft, reach out to people and fulfill the vital role the arts play in society.

Our inaugural arts festival is no different. This festival has been in the planning stages for well over a year. From the initial desire to showcase artwork from Little Saints to Form V, the idea grew to be a full-on arts festival that would be ready by September 2020. Insert the sound of a wrong answer buzzer. Well, September came and went, and we were still limping along, trying to find our place in this newly sanitized space. Armed with the promise of a vaccine, the team boldly dreamed the dream of our first whole school festival with music, dance, poetry, art and all the other forms, including champagne, that enrich people's lives to make them feel whole again.

Riding the crest of the third wave of the pandemic, we reviewed the situation, and the decision was taken to allow technology to take centre stage. The festival will now be enjoyed from your couch and the bubbles will just have to wait.

Fortunately, we can celebrate the artists who contributed to the banner, which was designed by the Senior School art teacher, Danielle Mowatt. Cheers to Milla Morse (Form I R), Lily van Loggerenberg (Form I M), Emily Jennett (Form I Y), Palesa Mokotjomela (Form IV), Gopolang Mohlakola (Form IV), Emma Frahm-Arp (Grade 6 F), Olivia Coetzer (Grade 4 N), Isabella Crawford (Grade 4 N), Yuxi Zhang (Grade 7 T) and of course Jemma Tresling (Grade 7 H) who won the poster competition.

Watch this space and the school app for more information.

JANE MCMURRAY  
HOD: CULTURALS

## PTA CLUB 100

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:

100% WINNER: LANGELIHLE MOLEFE - FORM III

20% WINNER: EMILY ALSTON - FORM II

10% WINNER: ABIGAIL COPPOLA - FORM III



# BASKETBALL

Five of our basketball players attended district trials. The trials took place while restrictions weren't as stringent and strict Covid protocols were observed.

An invitation was extended to U16 and U18 players. However, to attend the trials, all players must be registered with and playing for a club.

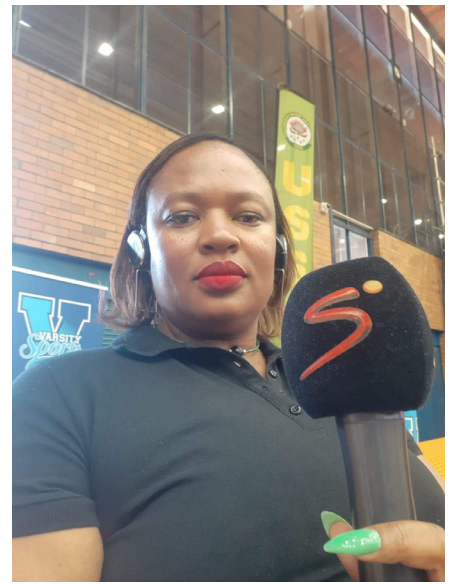
Zoë Christodoulou, Josephine Sabio, Serena Wolfenden, Zinathi Gwina and Tawananyasha Muchineripi play for the ANGELS basketball club, which is run by our 1<sup>st</sup> team coach, Emma Ledwaba. Emma has had a distinguished career as both a player and now as a coach and all the girls under her guidance have refined their skills and developed tremendously as players. This has been evident at both school and club levels.

Zoë and Josephine were selected for the Johannesburg District U18 team, Serena and Zinathi were selected for the Johannesburg District U16 team and Tawana was selected as a reserve for the U16 team.

Both the U18 and U16 teams will participate in the Gauteng provincial trials where the final provincial teams will be selected. The provincial teams will participate in a national tournament, later in the year when the Covid threat has been lessened, where the South African junior teams will be named.

This is exciting news for basketball at St Mary's. We are proud of the progress of all of players, these five girls especially, and we wish them the very best of luck at their provincial trials.

We have missed being on the court and we look forward to being back there again!



Emma Ledwaba



Zoë Christodoulou



Josephine Sabio



Serena Wolfenden



Zinathi Gwina



Tawananyasha Muchineripi

TARYN DE WINNAAR  
HOD: SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT; BASKETBALL

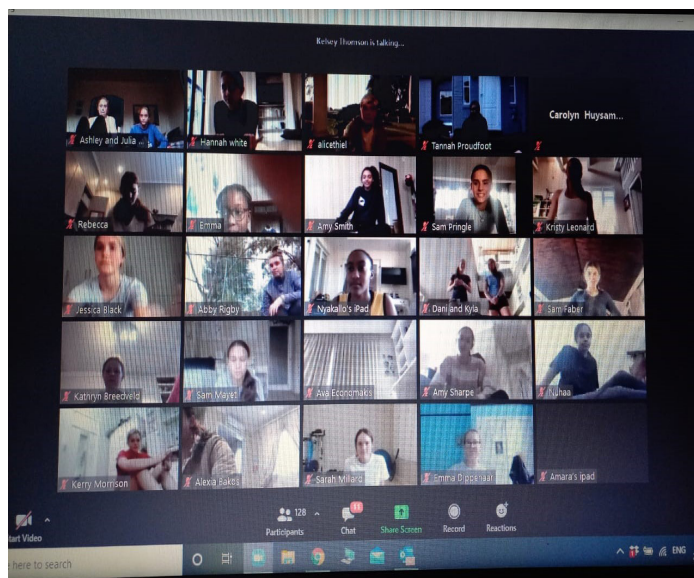
# FITNESS SESSION WITH THE ST MARY'S OLYMPIANS



On Tuesday 6 July, the St Mary's girls were given the opportunity to take part in a live fitness session on Zoom with seven Olympians. The girls are finding sustaining motivation to exercise quite tough, so it was a little disappointing to see that a greater number of them did not take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity and experience. It was the brainchild of Kelsey Thomson (St Mary's head of aquatics), who then found a suitable time for all the sportswomen going to the Tokyo Olympics as well as two of our past Olympians to meet and motivate our St Mary's girls.

The Olympians each gave us a brief overview of their sports careers and what this pinnacle of achievement means to them. We then did a workout based on each current Olympian adopting one of the colours of the Olympic rings. Our girls were able to pose questions, which we were all answered, and then we ended by giving them a St Mary's shoutout and good luck for the Games.

Most rewarding was the feedback sent to me after the session where the most common words used were honoured, privileged and inspiring. I was able to give this feedback to the girls about to head to Tokyo. I think inspiring the youth is a responsibility of a top performer and these sportswomen are doing a fantastic job. To Ros Howell (hockey coach 2004), Cindy Brown (hockey 2008), Lisa Deetlefs (hockey 2008, 2012 and 2021), Lilian du Plessis (hockey 2021), Kelsey Thomson (water polo 2021) Amica Hallendorff (water polo 2021) and Daniela Passoni (water polo 2021) I cannot thank you enough for giving up your time to give the St Mary's girls such a unique and special opportunity.



QUIX  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

## SCHOOL MAGAZINE NOTICE

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Dear parents and guardians

Starting this year, we will be offering you the choice of receiving the annual St Mary's School magazine in a digital format version and / or a hard copy version.

Please click this link for further information and to make your choice: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qRTHf0sekYmC6d0D0i8D1D5\\_BltrVZpR8NxXSlft5Js/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qRTHf0sekYmC6d0D0i8D1D5_BltrVZpR8NxXSlft5Js/edit)

## ADMISSIONS

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We wish to remind parents of the contractual requirement of providing one full term's notice, in writing, should you wish to withdraw your child from the school in order to avoid being charged penalty fees in lieu of late notice. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leigh-Anne at [leigh-anne.verster@stmary.co.za](mailto:leigh-anne.verster@stmary.co.za).

## ED-ADMIN PORTAL

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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](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za) with both you 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](http://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](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za).