



Grade 4s working outside in the winter sun

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

Things, to use a general expression, are getting better. For one, we are back on campus and the weather is warming up, slowly. For another, almost all the staff at St Mary's have been vaccinated, and some events of the last two weeks of the Trinity term are going ahead as planned: parent afternoons, Grades 6 and 7 formal assessment feedback, the Form II self-eSTEAM programme and the online arts festival that launches next week. There is enough to be grateful for: a month-long holiday awaits us, and spring is around the corner.

Our new chaplain, Rakgadi Khobo, is joining us next term. In the meantime, the Senior Primary girls have had to put up with me in their remote Divinity lessons. We have discussed the word "chaplain", where it originated, what it means and what the role entails at St Mary's. We have spent time defining terminology that we take for granted too often: identity and ethos, pastoral care, divinity itself. What I have uncovered in my discussions with the girls is, firstly, a huge appetite for discussion (and digression); and, secondly, a genuine vagueness in response to some of the concepts we assume the girls know and that we use regularly, either in their immediate presence, or with reference to the relationships we expect to enjoy with them.

The discovery was opportune, not mortifying, and I have taken some pleasure in our seemingly interminable debate over the difference between the words "character" and "personality" and its implications, both moral and spiritual, of it for our understanding of the term "ethos". The girls' understanding of morality is emerging and they are tentative in their approach to topics involving judgements of right and wrong, good and bad - I imagine they might be more outspoken in other company...

One of the more interesting contributions on ethos came from a Grade 5 girl who was inspired to follow up our conversation with some reading of her own: she directed our thinking along different lines by speaking about the connections we could make between the concept of ethos and ideas of generosity and hospitality (closer, perhaps, to *xenia*, another Greek word that means both "hospitality" and "friendship") - character traits that are important always, but which have particular significance in times of fear and mutual suspicion.

In the introduction to her translation of Homer's *Odyssey* - the first by a woman - British classicist Emily Wilson tells us that, "Those who traveled to an unfamiliar land used the norms and expectations of *xenia* to form bonds with people who might otherwise have treated them as too ragged and dirty to deserve a welcome, or as too dangerous to accept into their home".

I reflected that Wilson's description could be applied to our own circumstances where the pandemic is understood as "an unfamiliar land" and we are all travellers, of one degree or another, in search of safety, expressed by the concept of "home." Our bonds with each other - bonds which have strained and threatened to tear at times - have been fortified by our recourse to a common value system, an ethos characterised by the habit of friendship, good neighbourliness, and balanced judgement - what else but our own love, community, and integrity?

My best wishes to all our families as we embark on the August holiday: whatever the nature of your travels, and wherever they may take you, I hope you are met with hospitality and friendship in your time away from school, and that you return to us rested and restored.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

## JUSTICE, MERCY AND HUMILITY

During the past months, I have spent time thinking about the idea of reward and its inevitable opposite, punishment. It brought my favourite verse to mind.

*Micah 6:8*      *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God." (NIV)*

When we read this verse from Micah it may seem like a tall order. How can we, fallible humans, ever fulfil this requirement?

It is something that we encounter in our role as parents at an early stage. I always lamented the fact that my children didn't arrive with a manual and now that they are adults I am astounded by the way they have turned out.

It is Micah 6:8 that has been my go-to manual over the years, both as a teacher and a parent. God is a loving parent and teacher and He expects nothing less from us in our interactions with our children and colleagues. The hint may lie in the word humble - we are indeed 'mortal'. We often get it wrong and humility is the test of our mettle.

God sets the example. He is both just and merciful when we come before Him with humility. The challenge is for us as adults, be it parent or teacher, to practise this in our dealings with our children. It is our responsibility to teach that actions have consequences but, at the same time, to balance our responses with mercy. God acknowledges our individuality and so when we respond to our children we need to recognise this uniqueness. It is our privilege to be gifted these children for a short while. I pray that, when we reflect, we can say, "I acted with justice, mercy and humility."

The St Mary's community would like to extend condolences to the Mahlangu family in the Senior School, on the loss of Loyiso's father. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

*Father of all, we pray to you for your servant and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

LYNN NORTHMORE  
HEAD OF PASTORAL CARE, HOD: LIFE ORIENTATION



## LITTLE SAINTS

Last Friday, the children thoroughly enjoyed wearing their pyjamas and slippers to school. We baked muffins and they were treated to a cup of hot chocolate, which was warmly welcomed in this chilly weather.

CELIA DIANA  
HOD: LITTLE SAINTS



## GRADE 0

The Grade 0 girls have been investigating lines. They have explored vertical, horizontal, curved, scalloped, dashed and zigzag lines. They were then inspired by artist Doh Ho Suh who said that he wished he could pack up his home and take it with him wherever he travelled just like a snail. The girls then drew snails and what they would have liked to take with them from school while they were remote learning.

AGOTHA CLARKE  
GRADE 0 TEACHER



# GRADE 1: CELEBRATING MANDELA DAY



Mariam Nazeer



Lily Locke



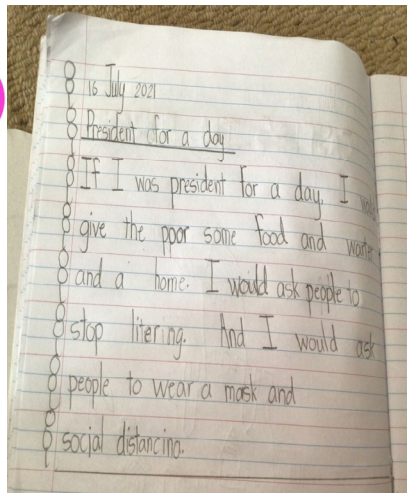
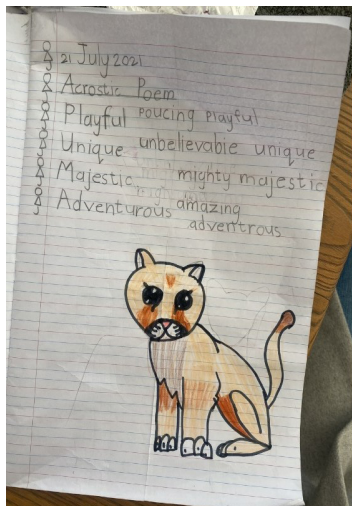
Ndileka Tashe

Grade 1 girls celebrated Mandela Day at home by dressing up in a colour from the South African flag. They also shared their 'acts of kindness' on Seesaw and posted photographs and drawings.

JACKY CACIOPPO, PHILIPPA DI BENEDETTO AND NATASHA DE BONI  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHERS

# GRADE 2

The Grade 2s learned about nouns, verbs and adjectives. They applied this to writing acrostic poems about themselves, as well as their favourite animal, food or object. The girls commemorated Mandela Day by drawing a picture of themselves and expressing how they could make a difference in South Africa if they were president for a day.



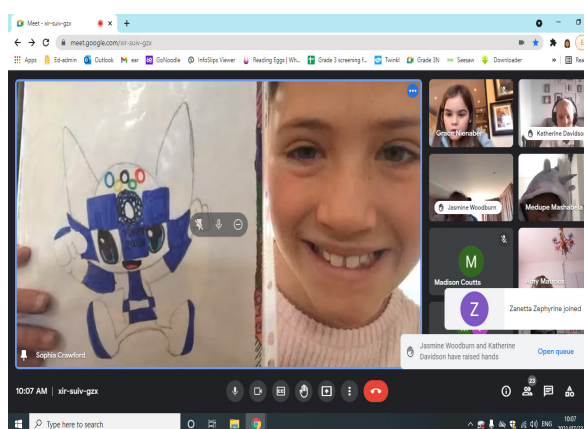
CARON LAWRENCE  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER

## GRADE 3

The Grade 3 girls continued with remote learning. In English we covered concepts such as collective nouns, sequencing, parts of speech and comprehensions. The girls also enjoyed creative writing, focusing on “A hot air balloon adventure” and “My plans for the future”. In Mathematics, we completed multiplication activities and multiplication stories. Life skills saw us having an “Olympic Friday” and learning more about the Olympics. The girls enjoyed drawing the Olympic mascot, Miraitowa, and learning about its origins.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games mascot is styled with the Ai (indigo blue) Ichimatsu pattern from the Tokyo 2020 Games emblem, a tribute to both the respected tradition and modern innovation of Japanese culture. Miraitowa has a personality inspired by the Japanese proverb, “learn from the past and develop new ideas.” Miraitowa is cheerful and remarkably athletic, with a very strong sense of integrity. It has a special power to teleport instantly anywhere it wants. The name Miraitowa is based on the Japanese words *mirai*, meaning future, and *towa*, meaning eternity, representing the wish that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will lead to a future of everlasting hope in the hearts of everyone around the world.

**ANESHREE NAICKER**  
**JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER**



## GRADE 4

During remote learning, the Grade 4s have been drawing hedgehogs in Art. During the English lessons, the girls are reading *The Secret Garden* and wrote about their own secret gardens. In Mathematics they have been learning about patterns and making their own similar patterns using household items. In History, Ms Elk has been giving them guest lessons on the History of Johannesburg where students learned about the gold rush, the speedy development of the city, and how to make inferences through old photographs. The Natural Science lessons have been filled with discovering what makes something ‘living’. In making a decision about whether something is ‘living’, ‘non-living’ and ‘once-alive’ we looked at the seven characteristics of living things.

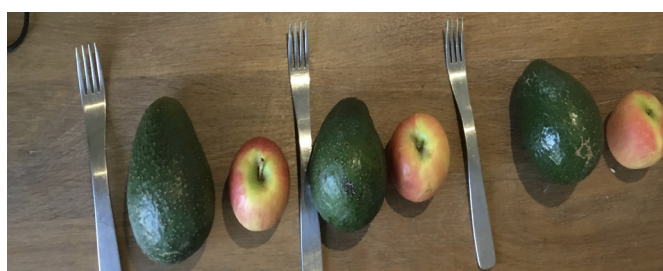
In mentor time, all the girls had an opportunity to teach one another something every morning. This was a fun way to learn more about each other and to introduce each other to different hobbies and art activities that we can enjoy in lockdown. We made origami, learned how to draw, designed our own stickers and made a nifty bookmark for our favourite books.



Addison Oldfield-Sammons



Abigail Van Der Watt



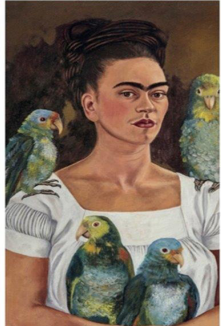
Florence Pirnie

**GRADE 4 TEACHERS**

# GRADE 6

During lockdown, the Grade 6 girls were asked to recreate a well-known art piece from their chosen artist. The quality of work this year was amazing.

LIZ GRAWEZ  
SENIOR PRIMARY ART TEACHER



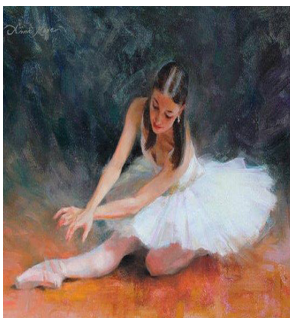
Cayla Wilkinson as Frida Kahlo



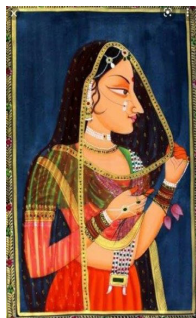
Imogen Gunning as Banksy



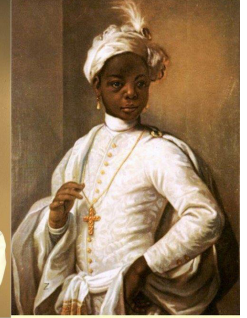
Holly Cairns as Tim Okamura



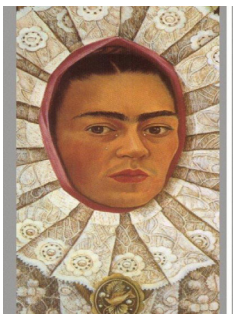
Cora Slade as Anna Rose Bin



Lara Teji as the famous Rajasthani bride by Nihal Chand



Reabiloe Kodisang as Alessandro Longhi



Siliziwe Hans as Frida Kahlo

# MUSIC

The Grade 0 girls are having a whale of a time in music, having returned to school and embracing the joy of music now that they are back on campus. In one of the pictures featured, you can see them playing the circle game, Cocoléo! Please see the link below.

<https://youtu.be/alejsxUKHe4>

In the pictures, the girls are singing a song about fruit and vowels which they learned during remote learning.



GEORGE POTGIETER  
HOD: JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

## VISUAL ART



Mahlatse Chocho



Nyasha Mazarura



Tamlin Klement



Lesedi Mochela



Gopolang Mohlakola



Hannah Sherman

The Form IV Art students reflected on their Impressionist painting project. Here are a few reflections from the girls:

“Initially, I was quite skeptical of the impasto and unblended techniques of impressionism, but I soon realised it was a very freeing process, which I enjoyed.” Mahlatse Chocho

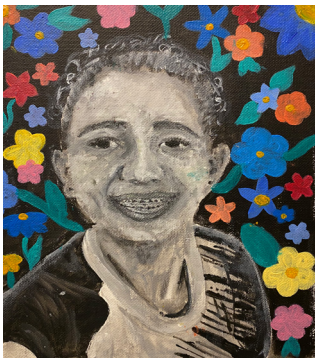
“I enjoyed the freedom of the process and the spontaneity of each brushstroke and how the canvas came to life with the illusion of movement the combined brushstrokes created.” Tamlin Klement

“It’s very different from what I’m used to - a naturalistic style - being forced to create a naturalistic looking artwork using simple methods and I found it much more fun than being stressed over trying to create the perfect painting and instead just letting the paintbrush do the work.” Tatiana Williams

“I enjoyed that I had to step out of my comfort zone and try new things and teach myself to stop trying to make everything look perfect.” Azra Nosarka

“I enjoyed creating an artwork I was proud of without the limitations of perfection.” Farai Mazarura

“I discovered my ability to match colours to a still life image.” Emma Morgans



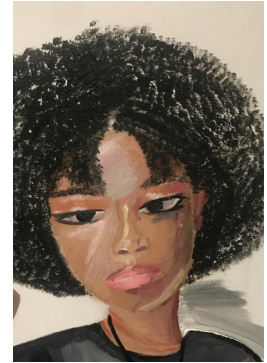
Danelia Price-Hughes



Ella Stipinovich



Kathleen Young



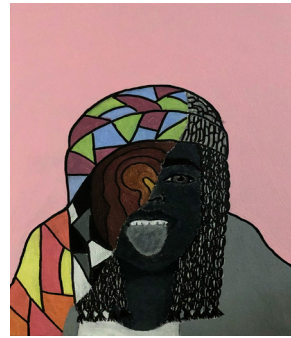
Makwapeng Maonya



Mikayla de Bruin



Reabetswe Mntambo



Shamiso Chitenhe



Ruby Logan

The Form II Art students began their self-portrait project at school and had to continue it at home when we started remote learning. The task was to create a self-portrait in the style of a prominent South African artist they had studied in class, such as Tim Okamura, Nelson Makamo, Zanele Muholi and Lionel Smit, among others. The girls explored stylistic painting techniques and learned about proportions of the human face throughout this process.

**DANIELLE MOWATT**  
HOD: VISUAL ARTS

## DRAMA

A few weeks ago, we published a piece written by Nnema Mazwai about FEDA 2021. We received word that we have won three prizes for the event!

1. Best Ensemble
2. Best Sound Design
3. Special Mention award for Theatrical Excellence

Our cast members were:

- Tatenda Chigede
- Nnema Mazwai
- Nonkululeko Mcanyana

Our technical team members were:

- Amy Leishman
- Marion Sigamoney
- Erin Kersten



Tatenda Chigede



Nnema Mazwai



Nonkululeko Mcanyana



Amy Leishman



Marion Sigamoney



Erin Kersten

**KLAUS JANSEN VAN VUUREN**  
HOD: DRAMATIC ARTS



## VIRTUAL ARTS FESTIVAL



# Watch this space...

The virtual St Mary's Arts Festival will launch on Wednesday 4 August. View the diverse talent of our St Mary's girls!

## LIFE ORIENTATION

The WIP (Woman in Power) course run by Mark Grobbelaar focused on self-defence, but not your ordinary self-defence classes. This course focuses on the importance of responding quickly and effectively with one simple move. The course contained two theory sessions, followed by two practical sessions. The "final" session meant to EMPOWER girls, highlighted the inner strength of each individual, when they punched through wooden boards using their fists.

Great fun and learning was had by all the girls involved.



CAITLIN DACE  
LIFE ORIENTATION TEACHER

## ROWING

We wish our Junior National rowers all the best as they depart for Bulgaria for the Junior World Rowing Championships from Friday 6 - Monday 16 August. The rowing club is behind you all the way! Should you wish to follow our progress: <https://worldrowing.com/event/2021-world-rowing-junior-championships>

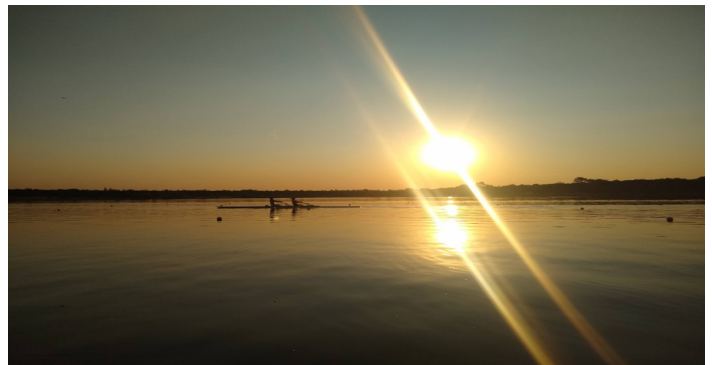


CAITLIN DACE  
HEAD OF ROWING

### Silence speaks

As our boat glided through the mirror-like water, splitting the reflection of the painted orange sky in half, I looked around. We were alone on the water. I could hear the small bubbles bursting against the hull of the boat and the bird life settling down for the evening as we rowed parallel to the bank. Our bodies were tired from the session but we still worked in unison to propel the boat forward with each stroke. As we worked our last kilometre down for the session, my breathing was heavy but controlled with each inhale. The air began to feel cooler as it filled my lungs and surrounded my skin. Soon, we stopped rowing and let our momentum bring us closer to the jetty. The sun slowly disappeared below the horizon while we put our boat inside the shed. All I could see was red and white and I felt proud to be a St Mary's girl.

CLARE KEEGAN  
FORM III



## ADMISSIONS

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).

## OLD GIRLS' NEWS



Mandy Mundell



Carla Hadfield



Lucy Young

### Ironman World Championships

Our congratulations are extended to SMOGS, Mandy Mundell (2008), Carla Hadfield (2010) and Lucy Young (2012) who have qualified for the Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Utah. This is a long-distance triathlon which consists of a 1,9km swim, a 90km cycle and a 21,1km run. This is an outstanding achievement and we wish them the best of luck!

QUIX  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



As the month of July draws to a close and we have had time to reflect on the recent devastating events that have gripped our country, and the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc, SMOGS (St Mary's Old Girls) would like to share a poignant message with you.

Zingisa Mtshazo, class of 1990, delivered a powerful message to the class of 2020 last year during her virtual address to celebrate the annual Candle Lighting Ceremony. This beautiful tradition, introduced by old girl Jann Frames (Webber, 1983) symbolises the carrying of each matric girl's light and the St Mary's values of Love, Community and Integrity out into the world, and welcomes the newest members of SMOGS into the alumni association.

When fellow classmate, Lisa Henry, first heard Zingisa's address it moved her to tears.

Lisa, founder and organiser of Johannesburg's longest running multi-genre film festival, *Jozi Film Festival*, approached SMOGS and expressed her wish to film Zingisa's address.

It is my privilege to share Zingisa's address. Her message is as relevant today as it was last year and not only for our matrics, but for the wider St Mary's community.

[https://youtu.be/mvuStBYC\\_k](https://youtu.be/mvuStBYC_k)

JULIE HEROLD  
CHAIRPERSON: ST MARY'S OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

## 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 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](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).