



A drawing by Chiara Bonorchis in Grade 7

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK

February, the month of love, is drawing to a close, with the announcement of St Mary's excellent matric results and the landing of NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars, the colour of the moment – Valentine's Day, our school and the fourth planet from the sun – surely should be red. So, why did the Senior Primary girls and I spend so much time last week talking about yellow?

On 9 December 2020, the American company Pantone did what it has been doing for two decades since the dawn of the new century: it named its Color of the Year, an event that is eagerly awaited by furniture, textile, fashion, accessory and technology designers the world over, but which might pass by the rest of us unwitting consumers of seasonal coloured toothbrushes, swimsuits, nail polish and exterior paint options.

For the first time since 2016 when the institute named Rose Quartz and Serenity as its Colors of the Year in recognition of the increasing fluidity of gender norms, Pantone has selected two shades for 2021: Ultimate Gray and Illuminating – chosen, the marketing material explains, for their dependability and warmth.

The selection of Illuminating also marks the second time that yellow has featured in the final line-up: in 2009, as Barack Obama entered the White House, the prevailing mood was optimistic, and no other colour, so the experts tell us, "expresses hope and reassurance like Mimosa, the most uplifting shade of yellow."

Commenting on Pantone's decision this year in greater depth (and reaching ever greater lyrical heights) Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, said the following about the union of an enduring gray with a vibrant yellow: "Practical and rock solid but at the same time warming and optimistic, this is a color combination that gives us resilience and hope."

Reflecting on the year that was, the Pantone Institute pointed to 2020 as a time of upheaval and protest in America "when social distancing became par for the course and people organized en masse across the nation to call for racial justice." The conclusion they reached, that the importance of connection is at the forefront of many people's minds, applies as much in South Africa, and at St Mary's, as anywhere else in the world.

## FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HEAD'S DESK (CONTINUED)

And this is where, perhaps, for all its seeming triviality, Pantone's Color of the Year campaign verges on the profound.

If nothing else, it serves to remind us of the essential, enabling relationship between the shiny moments of light and illumination and the dependable grey bedrock that grounds them. This is Amanda Gorman's sunshine yellow coat, her luminescent words at the presidential inauguration and the hard work that needs to be undertaken by an administration led by the oldest man to assume the presidency in American history; it is the matric results supported by years of foundation work by teachers from different schools, and it is the return of the daily ringing of the Angelus in the big picture of endeavour and effort that constitutes our school.

SARAH WARNER  
JUNIOR SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS



A drawing by Caitlyn Dube in Grade 6

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*

- Matthew 7:7-12 (NRSV)

In this, the second week of the Lenten season, we are reminded by Christ's words above of the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40): firstly, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. Christ tells us that we only need to ask, to search, or to knock. There are no other hurdles to jump through and God has no consulting hours. Turn to God in prayer, even if you are not sure what to say. It is enough to turn. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. How do we do this? By doing to others as we would have them do to us.

God of our salvation,  
your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant with every living creature:

grant us your Spirit,  
renew us in our baptism,  
and make us faithful stewards of your creation:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

- Collect set for the first Sunday in Lent, ACSA Lectionary (2021)

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN

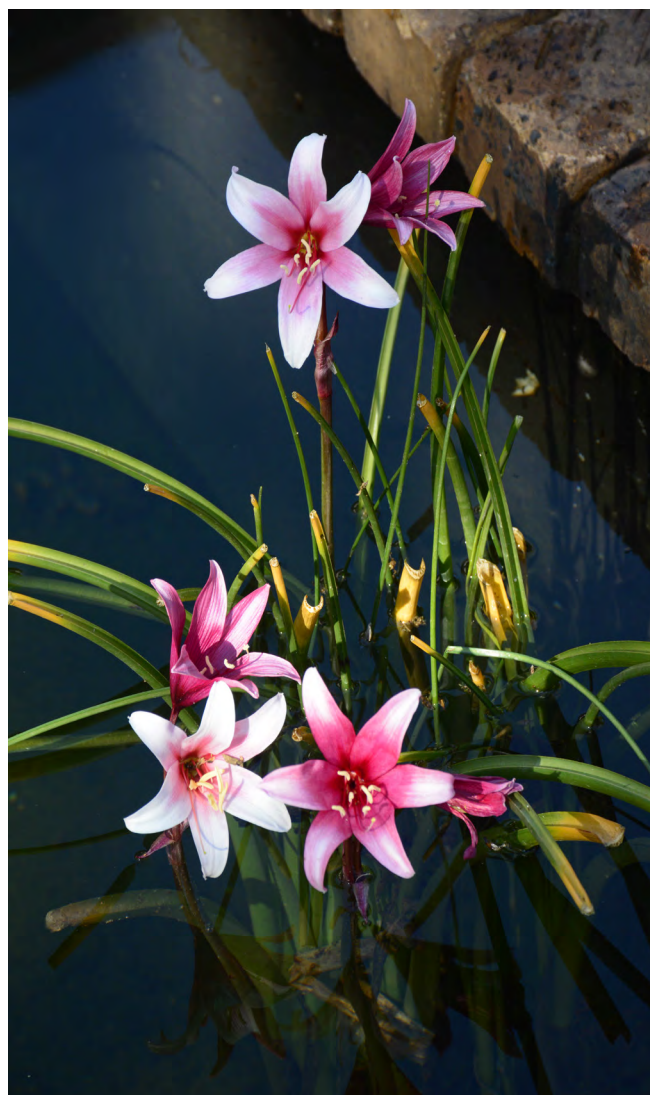


Photo by Quix

## LITTLE SAINTS

Two weeks ago at Little Saints, the children explored colour in the Atelier. Using droppers, which is a new skill, and liquid watercolours the children learned how to squeeze the dropper to suck up the colour and then squeeze it onto paper towel. The children were fascinated to see how the colour spreads all over the paper towel and mixes with the other colours. They also noticed how squeezing the dropper softly or with more force would determine how much colour would go onto their towel. Some children tested the limits of how much liquid the paper towel could hold before breaking. We had such fun!

AMY KAY  
LITTLE SAINTS TEACHER



## GRADE 0

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Grade 0 girls are pictured taking advantage of the sunshine and having EdTech and reading lessons outside.

LYNN TROLLIP AND LERATO SHUPING  
GRADE 0 TEACHER AND EDTECH LEADER



## GRADE 1

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After making their alphabet arcs, the Grade 1 girls built words with their alphabet cards.

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



## GRADE 1



## GRADE 3

From octagonal stop signs and rectangular doors, to triangular roofs and circular wheels, shapes are everywhere. Learning shapes not only helps children identify and organise visual information, it helps them learn skills in other curriculum areas, including reading, mathematics and science. For example, an early step in understanding numbers and letters is to recognise their shapes. Learning shapes also helps children understand other shapes and symbols. We have explored and investigated shapes and patterns over the past couple of weeks. The girls have had lots of fun working with and manipulating different 2D and 3D shapes.

LINDA MAISHMAN  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## GRADE 3 VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated Valentine's Day on Friday 12 February. The girls loved dressing up in their red, pink and white outfits. They added funky flip flops to the mix and raised money for CHOC's Flip Flop Day. Thank you to all who participated and supported a very worthy cause. The Grade 3 girls made friendship pebbles for their special Valentines. We used our fingerprints to make the hearts on the pebbles. We've been looking at our fingerprints and discussing what makes us unique and special, fingerprints being one of those features.

LINDA MAISHMAN  
JUNIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



## GRADE 4

The process of germination has sparked great excitement among the Grade 4s girls. There are daily updates about ailing or thriving seedlings, sharing of gardening tips and even dreams of magic beanstalks! The girls' skills of observation and detailed recording have been challenged and their vocabulary extended. Comments like, "I never knew there were so many fancy words" and "Please can I take some seeds for my brother?" have given me a smile! I hope the conversations around the dinner table are as interesting as they are around the petridishes in the Science Lab!

ANGIE JENNETT  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



# GRADE 4

The Grade 4 girls are exploring the Afrikaans theme: 'n Besoek aan die plaas. We are learning new vocabulary and using our new vocabulary to design and present the farms we created.

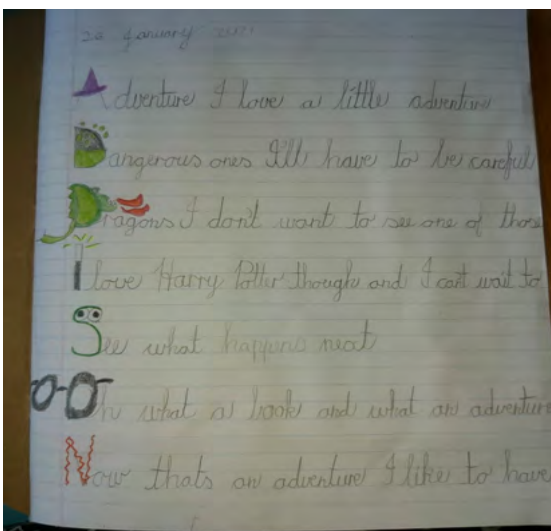
NADINE WHEELER  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



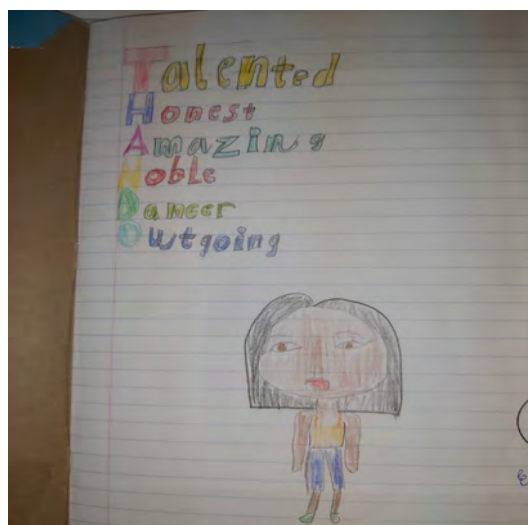
# GRADE 4

Grade 4 poetry

TRISH BONORCHIS  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



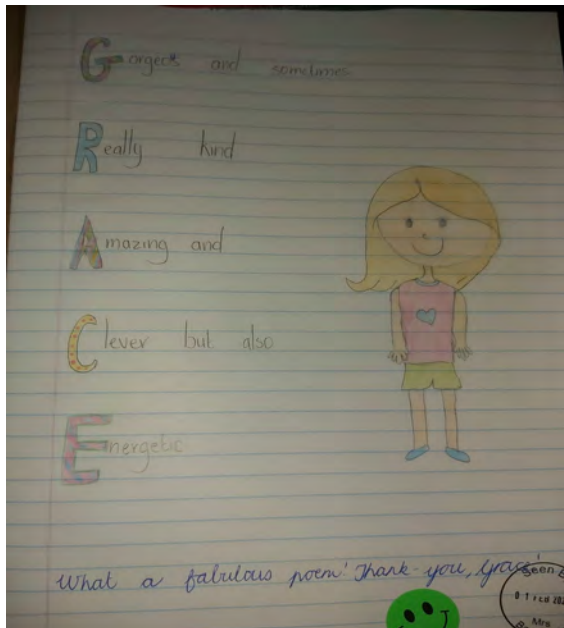
Addison Oldfield-Sammons



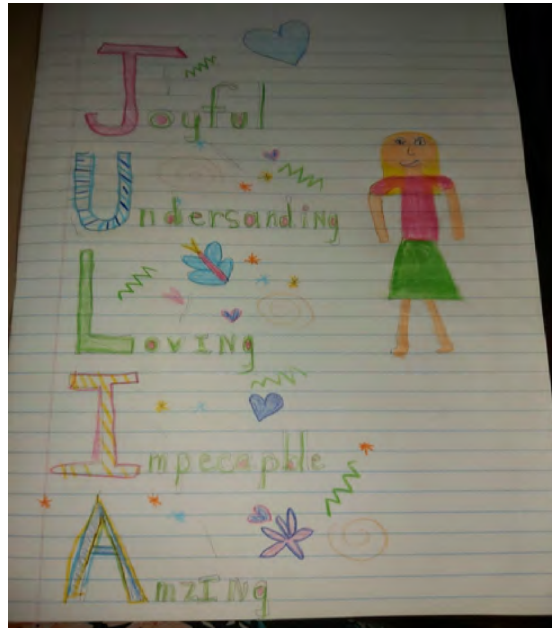
Noluthando Dlamini



# GRADE 4 (CONTINUED)



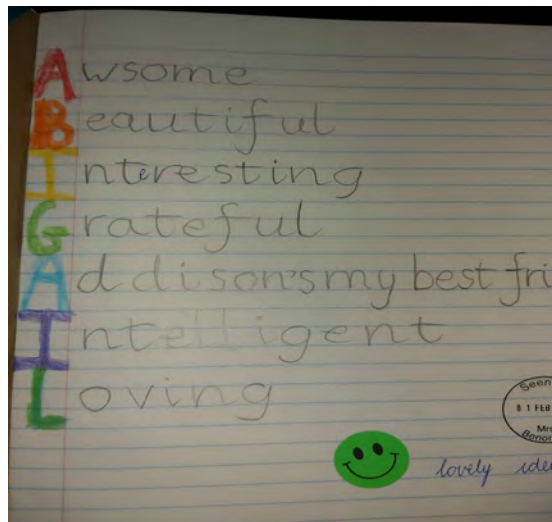
Grace Gibbs



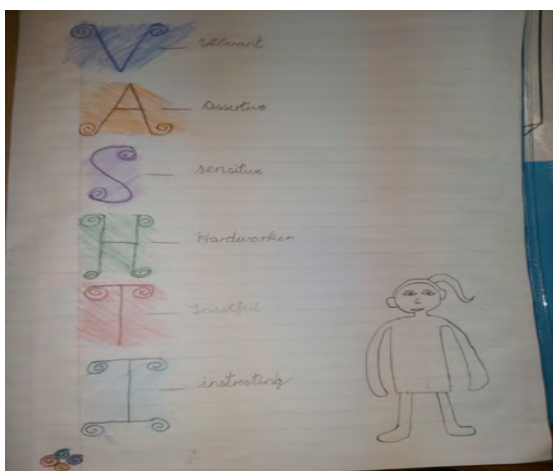
Julia Potter



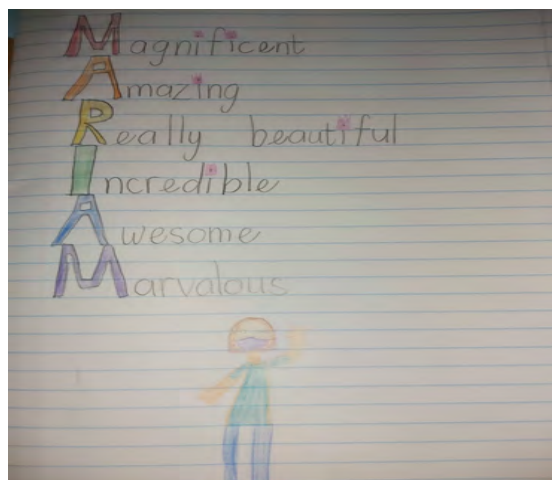
Sarah-Jane Cowlard



Abigail Van Der Watt



Vashti Reddy



Mariam Khan

# GRADE 7

The Grade 7 girls have been studying vertebrates and invertebrates. We focused on invertebrates and looked closely at spiders and locusts. The girls had a choice of making a spider or a locust out of play dough. Here are the results of their observations.

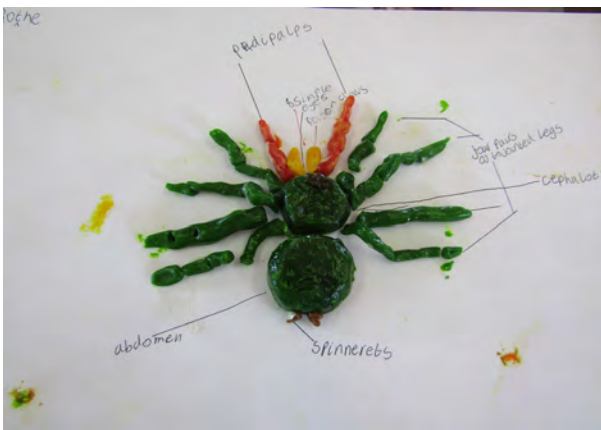
ANNIETHOM  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



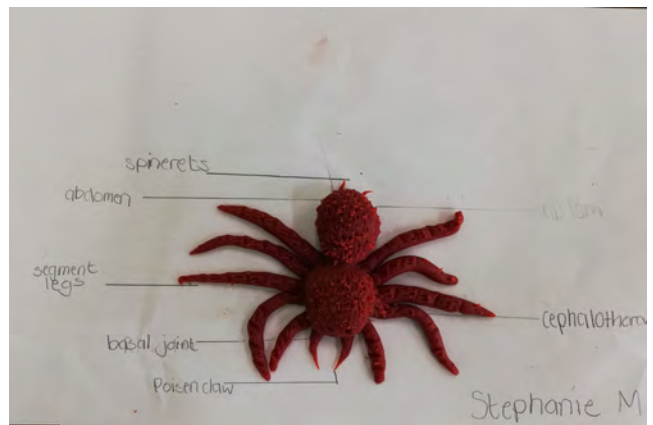
Emma Campbell



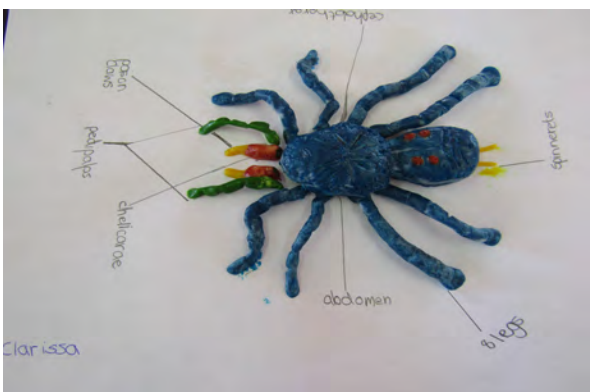
Alexandra Kobus



Rothe Mulaudzi



Stephanie Midlane



Clarissa Papperitz



Khanya Zulu

# SENIOR PRIMARY VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 12 February, the girls in the Senior Primary spread the Valentine's love by hanging notes of love and friendship on the tree outside the Senior Primary hall.

It was a beautiful display and reminder that even in Covid times, we all love and care about one another.

Some of the girls wrote notes to the doctors and nurses who have put themselves at risk for us.

**ROBYN RICHMOND**  
SENIOR PRIMARY TEACHER



# WHEELCHAIR INITIATIVE

The Sweetheart Foundation is an initiative which has seen a total number of 294 wheelchairs donated and more than 260,000kg of plastic bottle tops recycled since 2013.

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" Aesop*

To date, through the amazing acts of kindness and the community spirit of all the girls and their families at St Mary's, we have collected a staggering number of bottle tops and bread tags and donated four wheelchairs to people in need, and, of course, contributed to saving the planet. This is a phenomenal feat but we would love you to continue to help us to collect many more!

ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE.

450kg tops = one standard adult wheelchair  
50kg tags = one standard adult wheelchair

We can all make a huge difference in someone's life simply by keeping our bottle tops or bread tags and handing them into the teachers. Thereafter, the tops and tags will be collected, recycled and exchanged for a wheelchair for someone less fortunate in the community.

Please remember to keep collecting bottle tops and bread tags and hand them into the Junior School reception and Ella Sproule in Grade 3 will take them home to sort.



Ella Sproule and Jaimee Hacker with bottle tops collected for the Sweetheart Initiative



Ella Sproule with some bottle tops that she has collected

## MUSIC

With the ongoing threat of Covid-19, the health risks of singing and blowing wind instruments have been carefully considered in the context of choral and ensemble rehearsals in both the Senior and Junior School. We realise different schools are doing things differently, so wish to communicate the St Mary's approach. The Junior School and Music Department are entirely aligned in the agreement that no indoors tuition of wind instruments (whether in groups or one-one-one) or choral singing can yet be deemed safe. Only string and percussion players will be called into the rehearsal room for now.

Since the start of the pandemic, all scientific studies undertaken of aerosol spray from singing or projecting voices in a public speaking situation, strongly suggest increased risk of viral transmission. Several super-spreader events have been much publicised, including two deaths which resulted from the Skagit Valley Chorale rehearsal in Washington in 2020. Medical studies further show that, in particular, wind instruments are a source of significant aerosol production, especially since they cannot be played wearing masks.

Creative solutions worldwide are being devised. These include outdoor choir rehearsals on football fields, bags to cover wind instruments and performances disseminated on social media, rather than live. Many of you have seen digitally-edited lockdown performances of choristers, instrumentalists or dancers recorded separately, performing together. Quite apart from the economic trauma the pandemic has wrought on the performing arts, musicians are missing playing together and performing for live audiences. For children learning a wind instrument or singing in a choir, a year is a long time. While recorded performances and other creative challenges such as new technology have brought some remarkably positive aspects to the performance scene and music education, many of us are tired of the current situation, itching to get back into the rehearsal room and on to performance stages!

Despite this natural desire for normal life to resume, we need to retain caution.

Danger remains in certain musical practices. We must ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to reduce the risk of viral transmission. Numbers of children are carefully considered and, where possible, large venues, well-ventilated rooms and social-distancing informs our ability to continue to rehearse. Despite any disappointment involved, choral singing and wind-playing will remain carefully monitored for the moment. St Mary's stands firm to keep everyone 100% safe.

As our jazz band leader of 2020, Elliott Rogers, so beautifully expressed last year: "I know next year will see a burst of music and energy when everyone can play live music together again." We ask you to look forward to that burst of energy and the joy of live performances which will return. If your daughter is finding online lessons a challenge, speak directly to her teacher. The music staff are pouring energy and expertise into making online lessons full of fun, connection and progress but are always open to discussing a child's needs. We also extend heartfelt thanks to all the parents in our community who continue to encourage their daughter's enthusiasm for singing and playing, despite the current challenges.

**DUDLEY TROLLOPE AND CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES

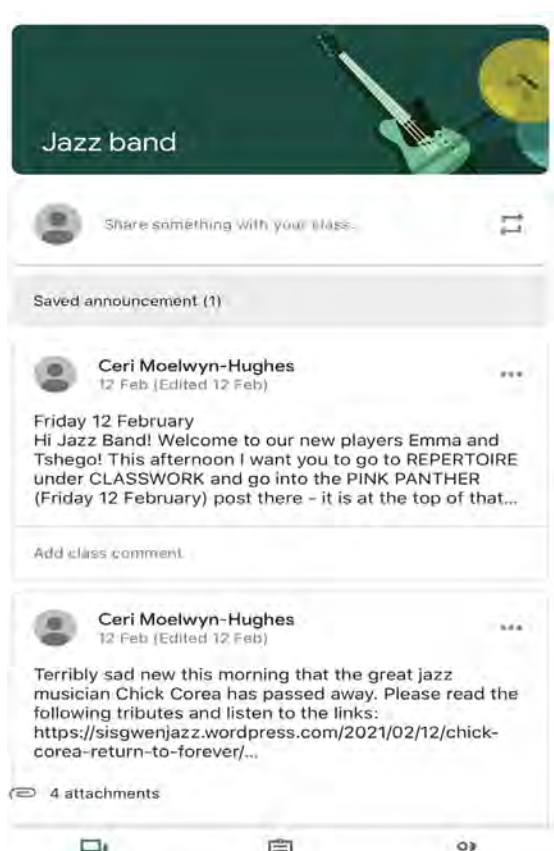


Virtual choir rehearsal in 2020

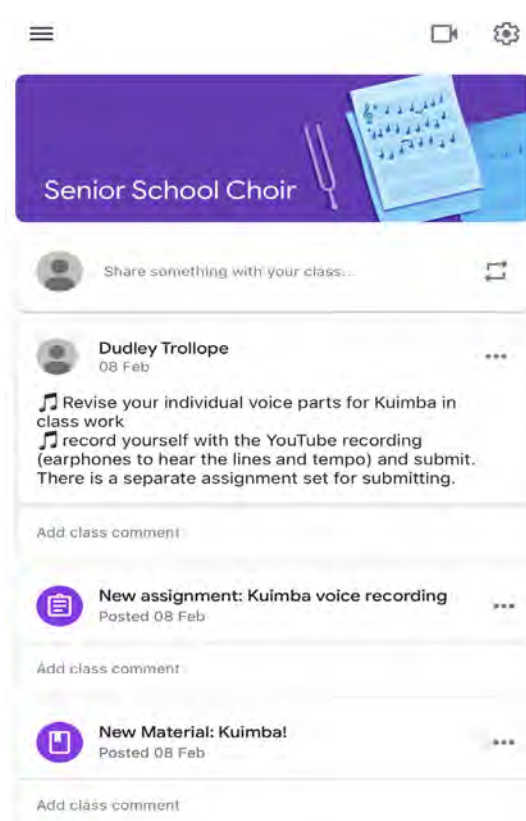


Rebecca Trickett having an online clarinet lesson

## MUSIC (CONTINUED)



Jazz Band Google classroom



Senior School Choir Google classroom

## MUSIC (CONTINUED)

The Junior Primary Grade 3 wind programme has been carefully considered in the current circumstances. In the interests of safety, the Music Department will offer a continued, yet modified, Grade 3 wind programme. The previous article explains our Music department and heads of schools' unanimous decision to prevent any risk of viral transmission through ensemble playing or choral singing. Unfortunately, the full sensory, physical experience of trying wind instruments is not currently safe to offer to the Grade 3s who are annually offered a compulsory, free course in four wind instruments over the course of the year. No actual blowing, touching or trying of instruments will happen, but the Grade 3 beginner group-class wind programme will continue to offer exposure to the brass family and woodwind families of instruments.

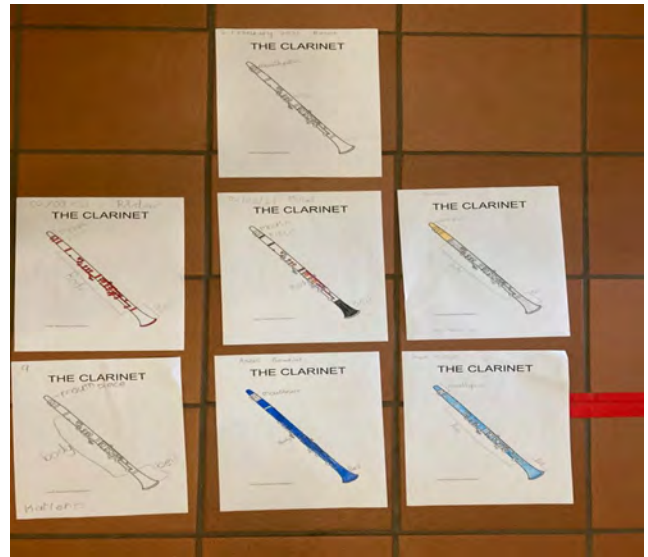
The four specialist wind teachers—Danni McKinnon (clarinet/saxophone), Kamilah Vein (flute), Christine Geldenhuis (recorder) and William Nobela (pTrumpet/trumpet/brass)—have adapted their courses to introduce the children to wind-playing in fun, engaging ways. It may seem impossible for wind players to demonstrate their art at the moment yet we are confident these passionate, skilled educators will still take the Grade 3 girls on an exciting journey to learn more about the delights of the woodwind and brass families of instruments.

Please do not feel dismayed at the lack of actual trying of wind instruments. These lessons will be filled not with passive listening and watching, but with multiple creative exercises which foster active listening to music, actual music-making (just not blowing!) and learning through a variety of approaches and age-appropriate techniques. The team has prepared an exciting myriad of musical experiences in creative, innovative ways. Despite not currently offering the usual experience of playing instruments, we have carefully reimagined the current wind programme and are confident it offers meaningful educational benefit. To those with daughters in Grade 3, we really hope they will enjoy learning about the different wind and brass instruments this year.

CERI MOELWYN-HUGHES  
HEAD OF WOODWIND STUDIES



Clarinet diagrams



Clarinet worksheets



Christine Geldenhuis teaching a Grade 3 group



Danni McKinnon with a Grade 3 clarinet class

# ROWING

## St Mary's rowers do it again

St Mary's is extremely proud of the following girls who have been selected to represent the following teams:

### South African junior squad



Emma Gray

Kerry Grundlingh

Hannah Newman

Tali Newman

### U16 South African development training squad



Serena Goodman

Clare Keegan

Reece McGregor

### U15 South African development training squad



Sophia Babaya

Holly Davidson

Eva Eicker-Harris

Ziyanda Gwamanda

Emma Impey



Danelia Price-Hughes

Justine Swinger

CAITLIN DACE  
HEAD OF ROWING

## GREEN DREAM

At St Mary's, we value integrity and community, and caring about the environment is an integral aspect of our school. We believe that it is our duty to minimise the effects that we, as a school, have on the environment and, therefore, St Mary's has committed to doing our part in sustaining and protecting the environment through various initiatives. One of our larger projects is our recycling project that is taking place at The Edge, where ecobricks are being stored to be used in future initiatives. Additionally, in recent years, various labelled recycling bins have been placed throughout the school to ensure that waste is disposed of correctly. The bins are separated into three different categories and each category is then disposed of in the correct manner.

KUTLOANO SHUENYANE AND MIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB HEADS



Eco-bricks collection



Recycled paper is also being stored at the bottom of the Edge

## JUNIOR DEBATING TEAM

Our congratulations are extended to Franscesca Lewitton in Form II, who has been selected for the South African national junior debating team.

SIMON IDEMA  
SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHER





## IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME

St Mary's is delighted with the matric results which the learners on our Saturday school, Ikusasa Lethu, achieved. This class of 2020, comprising 107 learners, has a pass rate of 91.6% (the national pass rate being 76.2%) and 32 distinctions were achieved.

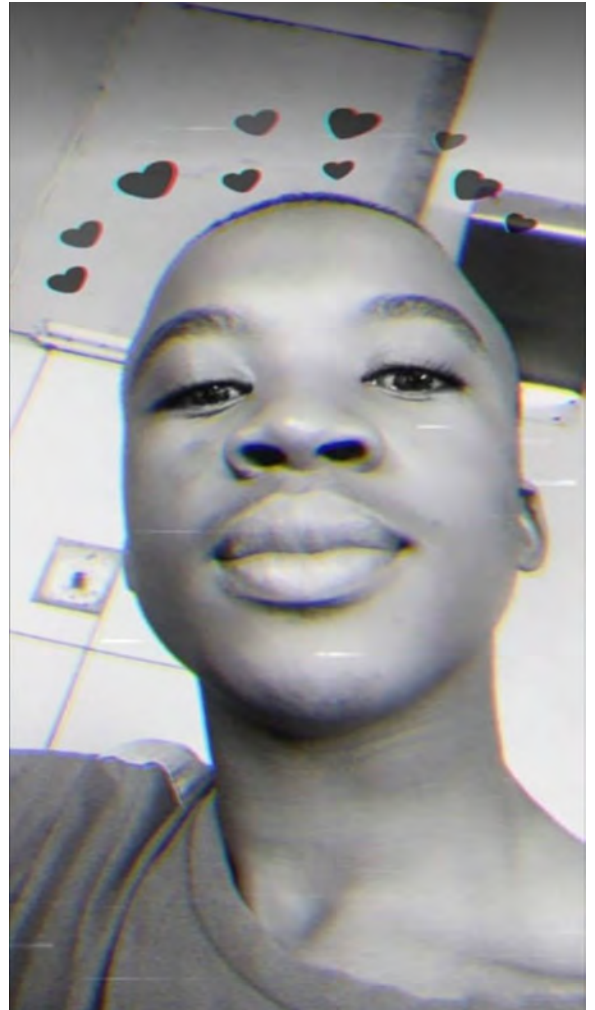
Sixty-two learners received Bachelor Degree Passes, a further 21, Diploma Passes and 15 obtained matric leavers certificates.

Top learner, Thato Katane obtained six distinctions and has been accepted to study Medicine at UCT. Thato achieved a staggering 92% for Physical Sciences, 88% for Life Orientation, 87% for both Mathematics and Geography, 86% for Life Sciences, 81% for Setswana and 76 % for English.

To date, two learners have been accepted to study further at Wits and six learners will be studying at the University of Johannesburg.

We are extremely proud of all of our learners on the programme and, in particular, the Ikusasa Lethu matric results for 2020. Last year, our learners faced innumerable challenges and worked extremely hard to attain their results.

**ROBYN KNOWLES**  
IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR



Thato Katane obtained six distinctions

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The "Sizanani mentorship programme" (Sizanani.org.za) launches its 2021 cycle. Our first new mentor induction is scheduled for Saturday February 20 at St Mary's School.

We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in mentoring high school learners from Alexandra.

We also have a large number of university students and graduates who are currently looking for in-service training and internships in different fields.

Please contact: Samantha 081 319 6532 or email [info@sizanani.org.za](mailto:info@sizanani.org.za)

**SAMANTHA MUTOREDZANWA**  
SIZANANI PROGRAMME MANAGER



Karine Guilloteau (mentor) and Tshegofatso Kgatla (mentee)

## ED-ADMIN PARENT 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 at [www.stmaryschool.co.za](http://www.stmaryschool.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).