

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

21 JUNE 2019



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The school is embarking on a month-long clothing drive in support of the Ikusasa Lethu programme (please see some of the pupils above). Details of the campaign are on page 3

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

At a recent meeting of the campus health and safety committee, we scrutinised the safety standards on our campus, recorded injuries and analysed our safety record. What impressed me was the commitment and level of concern of each member of staff at the meeting – each girl's safety was the priority of everyone present. I was rather concerned to hear that the driving habits of some parents in the car park resulted in the committee's considering new signage. There are a number of cars which drive too fast and recklessly in the stop-and-drop, with the excuse of the driver being, "they are in a hurry".

What does this say about the school being a place where our children are safe, happy and encouraged to thrive?

The media reports every day on violence, ill-discipline and a breakdown in the moral fibre at schools. Schools such as St Mary's work hard to secure and offer an excellent education for children. A place where children can grow, develop and flourish is the aim of our school but, to achieve this, we require the support of parents in upholding our ethos and contributing to a harmonious environment.

Children should not receive mixed messages from the adults whose purpose is to guide and protect. This includes following rules that are put in place to ensure safety. I include here, messages about the abuse of alcohol and drugs. Parents need to model appropriate behaviour and protect adolescents from themselves.

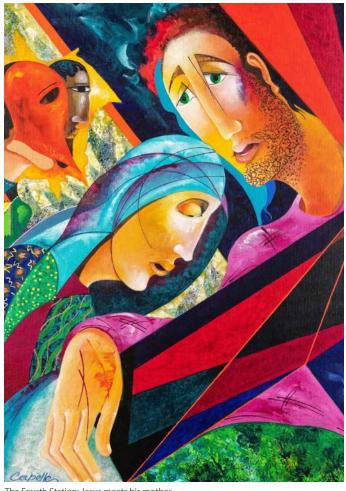
It is also our responsibility to guide adolescents in finding their voices. This is something that we work to achieve with the girls at St Mary's. The aim is for each girl to develop a confident voice which she shares. Nevertheless, it is also necessary to guide her voice and the moral and ethical value of how they communicate in society through social media. Current role models in popular culture and social media are often a detrimental influence and do not help our girls develop a voice that is measured, respectful and dignified.

Children want to know that they are loved, they want to know where the boundaries are and what expectations significant adults have of them.

> DEANNE KING HEAD OF SCHOOL

NOTICE BOARD – PLEASE SEE PAGES 9 AND 10 FOR ALL OUR IMPORTANT NOTICES

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

Mary, a grieving mother, bows towards her Son in an effort to comfort Him. Anguish is expressed on Jesus' face as He looks down at His suffering mother. His mental suffering is greater than His physical pain at this moment. The two figures in the background represent the executioner, in a red hood, and a member of the hostile crowd.

- Joseph Capelle

Then Simeon blessed [Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus] and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

- Luke 2:34-35 (NRSV

We recently celebrated our Patronal Festival to celebrate our Patron Saint, Mary, Mother of Jesus. In this Station, Christ looks up from his cross, and is deeply moved by the suffering of his mother, Mary. It is fitting that we should look back, first to Christ's walk to the cross, further back to Simeon's blessing the Holy Family, and finally even further back in time to Mary's response to the angel Gabriel: "Let it with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38b). Let us look up from what occupies our minds and notice Mary, as Christ does in this Station, and spend some time marvelling at the faith and courage of this woman of God.

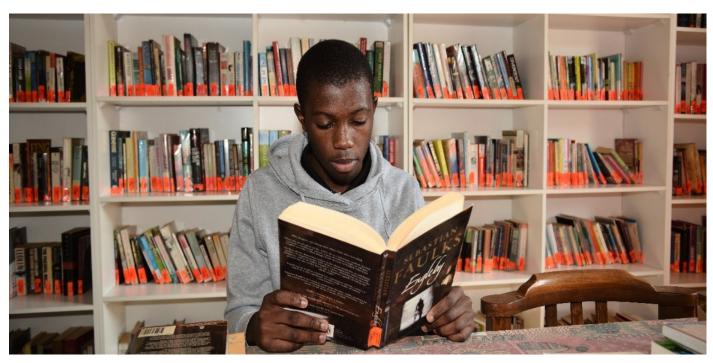
REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS CHAPLAIN

IKUSASA LETHU



Themba Ndimande teaching a group of pupils to code

IKUSASA LETHU



A pupil reading in the Ikusasa Lethu library

The learners at Saturday school attend English, Mathematics, Physical and Life Sciences, Geography, Accounting, Economics and Business Studies lessons. All the learners also spend time in the computer rooms learning a variety of computer skills. Coding is taught to some. All have access to the library which has been resourced with donated novels.

LINDA GIURICICH
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



For the past 30 years, St Mary's has run a successful Saturday school, which provides learning support for pupils from the five high schools in Alexandra and surrounding communities. The school is called Ikusasa Lethu which means *Our Future*.

Many of the pupils attending the Ikusasa Lethu Programme come from very poor Alexandra households, some are even shack dwellers; they have minimal, often inadequate, clothing.

For this reason, we are appealing to the St Mary's community to open your hearts and to clean out your cupboards and put no-longer-in-use clothes, linen, shoes, even blankets into the bags your children have brought home.

These clothes will be given to the pupils who attend to Saturday school for their own use and to distribute to the communities in which they live. Should we get a surplus of clothes (hopefully) we will send the extra bags to Alma Primary School in the Limpopo Province.

This month-long clothing drive will run from Tuesday 18 June, ending on Mandela Day on 18 July.

For further information on the Ikusasa Lethu Programme and to watch a related video, please visit the St Mary's website: Foundation/Communities in need.

STUDIUM APERTUM



Please note this is a compulsory school day for all girls in Form I to matric (at no extra cost). Should parents wish to participate, booking will be available on Quicket at a cost of R50 per person.

Programme 13 July 2019

Keynote speaker:

Rekgotsofetse Chikane: *Our Generational Mandate: Break* the Rainbow, Build a Nation

Sarah Nuttall: Re-imagining schools

Fred Khumalo: The Lion Speaks Tonight: Disrupting

established History narratives Lady Skollie: *Agitate, agitate, agitate*

Digby Ricci: Narratives and Truths: an exploration of

Antony and Cleopatra

Bonita Meyersfeld: Disrupting and Reconceptualising Our

Understanding of Violence

Burning Rebellion- a play in song and dance and poetry

Times to be confirmed.

STAGE PRODUCTION OF AFRIKAANS SETWORKS



 ${\it Matric girls with the actors Divan, Augusta and Ronaldo from Pit Productions~2019}$

On Thursday 6 June, the matric girls watched a performance of this year's Afrikaans setwork novel, *Hoopvol*, as well as various poems studied throughout the year. The Pit Productions team brought the words alive with creativity and humour, and most of us left the auditorium still giggling at the actors' brilliant characterisation and storytelling.

Their adaptation of the novel was original and it was wonderful to see the action unfolding in front of us. The energy with which they approached both the retelling of the novel and the performance of the

poetry was impressive and immersed each member of the audience in the show. As learning is so often confined merely to the classroom, we forget that there are other ways in which to engage with written texts.

Pit Productions allowed us to understand Afrikaans literature in a more intuitive, creative manner, one that we will undoubtedly carry into the future.

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FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

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ISSF



The Independent Schools' Sports Festival is held annually. It alternates between KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. The schools from the two provinces are paired up and the players are billeted with families from the partner school. St John's Diocesan School for Girls and St Mary's have been partners for many years. On Friday 7 June, the 1st hockey and 1st netball teams, top four tennis and top two squash players set off for St Anne's Diocesan College in Hilton, who were hosting the 2019 event.

The facilities were impressive: squash was played on four glass-backed courts, tennis on eight tennis courts, hockey on the two AstroTurfs and netball in their state-of-the-art indoor centre which houses three netball courts, each with its own electronic scoreboard.

The organisers do their utmost to ensure that schools from the same province rarely play one another. Matches are played in great spirit but teams do not play every team and there is no overall winner. It is a wonderful opportunity for both players and coaches to meet new people, make new friends and rekindle friendships that have formed over years of participation.

Our teams fared well and the girls agreed that, despite its being held during the examination period, the experience was worthwhile.

QUIX DIRECTOR OF SPORT

GOLF



Samantha teeing off at Maccauvlei

It was a privilege to drive out to Maccauvlei Golf Course and watch Samantha represent the Gauteng Ladies' B team. From this event she went to Nylstroom where she played and won the Limpopo Ladies' Open at Koro Creek Golf Course. Congratulations, Samantha.

QUIX DIRECTOR OF SPORT

NETBALL



The St Mary's 1st netball team recently played against the St Andrew's School for Girls 1st team and secured a 20–10 victory.

HOCKEY



The 1^{st} team before the start of the game

Each year, within the Grays Hockey League, the St Mary's U14 to 1st hockey teams and the St Stithians Girls' College U14 to 1st hockey teams meet for an afternoon of friendly rivalry and great hockey. This year was no exception when the teams met at St Mary's and St Stithians



Sarah, the St Mary's 2019 hockey captain

on Thursday 30 May. Seven matches were played, culminating in the 1st team match. This was a nail-biting affair, with the St Mary's team winning by two goals to one.

OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Hockey



St Mary's Old Girls, Lisa-Marie, Hannah and Lilian, all members of the South African national women's hockey team, will be playing in the World Series event in Valencia, Spain. With them is Haloise Pearce (Hannah's mother) and Gillian Doig (St Mary's present parent and manager of the side).

Rowing





Megan

Tayla-May



Jessica

Congratulations to Old Girls Megan, Tayla-May and Jessica on their selection for the U23 national rowing squad. Megan will row in the woman's single scull, and Tayla-May and Jessica will row in the

women's coxless pair. They will compete at the U23 World Rowing Championships in Sarasota-Bradenton, US, from 24 to 28 July.

SOUASH

Boys' league

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

St Mary's finished the season successfully by beating Bryanston High 11-8 on Friday 7 June. Well done to all the girls who participated in the boys' league.

Central Gauteng Junior Squash

At a recent capping ceremony, six St Mary's squash players received Central Gauteng Junior squash colours. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement.



Back row: Rachel (U16 A), Emma (U14 A), Jemma (U19 A) Front row: Sasha (U16 B), Tayla (U16 A), Megan (U13 A)

> JENNIFER FOX HEAD OF SQUASH

Deanne King, head of school, and the St Mary's HOPE committee invite you to a panel discussion on

TRANSFORMING OUR SCHOOLS. CONVERSATIONS WITH BONGANI BINGWA

Participating schools: St John's College, Sacred Heart College, Crawford Schools, Jeppe High School for Boys and St Mary's School

Date: Thursday 27 June

Time: 17h30 Venue: The Edge

This event is open to the public and is free of charge, however you do need to secure a seat. To do so, please click here.



NOTICES

MUSE MORNING - ALL PARENTS WELCOME

Date: Tuesday 23 July Time: 07h30 to 08h30

Refreshments served from 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30

Speaker: David Abrahamsohn, clinical psychologist
David has been working in private practice for the past 18 years. He has
extensive experience working with children, adolescents and adults
who experience a variety of psychological difficulties. He also has
worked in the corporate environment for many years where he coaches
and presents on a variety of psychological topics.

Topic: Anxiety in children

If progress is measured in the mental health and happiness of young

people in the world, then we have been going backwards since the early 1950s. Statistics tell us that eight times more children and teenagers meet the criteria for an anxiety disorder compared with during the Great Depression, World War I and World War II.

This presentation explores exactly what anxiety is, the variety of ways it presents, the possible causes of anxiety and why its prevalence has increased so dramatically of the past few decades: when to seek professional help for anxiety and, finally, effective strategies and management of anxiety.

RSVP: Lynsay Young at lynsay.young@stmary.co.za



Only in the movies are superheroes born. In real life, people have to work consistently hard, climb the proverbial mountains, overcome many personal and professional obstacles and even then, only a select few reach superhero status. 24/7 Security Services is proud to introduce one of our own superheroes – Maureen Maluleke.

Maureen joined 24/7 Security on the 14th of November 2007. Nearly 12 years later, she embodies everything we as a company stand for. She has worked her way through the ranks and as current Site Manager at St. Mary's School, she is an inspiration and role model to many.

As a youngster, Maureen had her heart set on joining the police force or enrolling as a soldier with the army. Her dream did not quite materialise, and she decided to join the security industry. She started her career as a security officer, worked her way up to a controller and now proudly fulfils her role as site manager. It may sound like an easy journey, but for a woman to reach this milestone in a predominantly male-orientated industry is a massive achievement.

Maureen attributes her success to hard work and being blessed with many role-models on her journey. Her mother, a strong woman who encouraged her children to set goals and work hard, was her first role model. Her brother taught her the value of honesty from an early age, an attribute she endeavours to instil in her team. She believes that you can learn from everybody who crosses your path. Several clients have been role models over the years and currently 24/7 Security Manager Altus Geldenhuys inspires her to always do her best.

The recipe for success is not complicated. Maureen believes that life gives you a key – your job is to use it. Her main focus is to keep her clients happy and to help her team grow. She endorses consistency, honesty, continued personal development and learning, and most importantly, always doing the right thing. It is also important to share one's experiences with the team and nurture good relationships. By being humble and showing respect, negative situations become positives that result in success for everybody involved. A successful team is a happy team, and that is always the goal. There is no time to focus on the negative – it just holds you back.

What does the future hold? Maureen is focussed on continuing her calling to the security industry. By maintaining her upwards growth and learning curves, she is working hard to become an Area Manager within 24/7 Security – the company where the started her career.

Maureen believes that it is not always easy being a woman in the security industry, but mutual respect overcomes many obstacles, and once you show people that you excel at your job, acceptance and inclusion follows naturally.

Maureen Maluleke, you are a 24/7 Superhero, and we salute you!

