



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888



• SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS •



Well done to the class of 2014 on their excellent matric results

From the headmistress' desk

Dear parents

Welcome back to a new academic year, and a warm welcome to the girls, families and staff who join St Mary's this year.

The anticipation and excitement of a new year is tangible on the campus. The first days of the school year, when we welcome new pupils and teachers, is always special and so, too, is the time to become reacquainted with friends and colleagues after a long holiday. This year provides another opportunity for the school and parents to create a significant year of learning for our girls.

We have celebrated the new leaders of 2015 this week, as they assumed office. I am certain that they will embrace the challenges of leading the school, mentoring the Form Is and forging a distinct character for their year group. They have good role models in the class of 2014, whose matric results have been

excellent. Seventy-three percent of the class achieved an average of over 70% and 33% an average of 80% or more. The number of distinctions was the second highest for a group since 2008, and this is particularly noteworthy since Mathematics Paper III was no longer assessed in the new curriculum, implemented in 2014.

St Mary's academic results have been consistently excellent since the National Senior Certificate was introduced in 2008, and we are proud of the girls who have achieved an almost perfect record of Bachelor Degree passes in the past six years. It would seem that the professional and committed approach of the teachers, together with the disciplined and focused work ethic of the girls, is a partnership for success. For more information about our 2014 matric results, please visit <http://www.stmarysschool.co.za/seniorNSCResults2014.php>

Dates to Diarise

Fri 16	17h00	FI and FV get-together Boarders' closed weekend
Sat 17		U16/U19 regatta
	07h00	Roedean/Old Mutual water polo
	08h00	FV Mathematics lesson - compulsory
	12h30	Jazz band outing and workshop
Sun 18	09h00	Boarders' Eucharist
Tues 20	07h30	FI camp departs
	14h15	FIV Art prac
Wed 21	18h00	Matric prayer service for FV girls and parents
Thurs 22	14h15	FV Art prac
Fri 23	12h30	FI camp returns
	14h30	Reef Cup water polo
	19h00	Social
Sat 24		Rock the boat (regatta) Reef Cup water polo
	08h00	Summer Splash
Mon 26	18h00	PTA AGM
Wed 28	07h30	Leaders' assembly
	13h30	Grayston expo
	18h00	Oxbridge webinar
Thurs 29	07h30	Breakfast for Old Girls who are current parents or grandparents at St Mary's
	14h15	FV Art prac
	18h00	Tour de Maths



The following teachers have joined our team and I look forward to their individual contribution to our girls' experience: Janet Baylis has joined the Drama department and Clarise Dippenaar the Consumer Studies

department. We also have additional English and Mathematics teachers: I welcome Athambile Masola and Victoria Herold.

Yours sincerely

Deanne King
Headmistress

From the chaplain

Welcome to a new year at St Mary's. Did you make any New Year's resolutions, and have you already forgotten them?

Here is one that is certainly challenging:

"Language should be 'positive' ... It is not so much concerned with pointing out what shouldn't be done, but with suggesting what we can do better ..."

Pope Francis

Our words have immense power - power to encourage or power to break down; power to heal or power to hurt; power to inspire or power to demotivate; power to bring forth

creativity or stunt growth. We can craft words cunningly to get our way, or we can speak simply and honestly to ensure truth is presented and known. In the daily barrage of words, as information swamps us from every side, words can lose their efficacy. We might be tempted to forget just how powerful our words are and the potential they hold.

Perhaps we could make this our prayer for this term and consider the effect our words may have:

Lord, you know the power of the Word, you spoke your creative word and the world was brought forth.

*Help me to speak creative and motivating words to everyone this week.
May all my words creatively encourage, heal and inspire.*

Amen

(Reproduced from the Weekly Reflection by Fr Russell Pollitt, of the Jesuit Institute)

Revd Gill Lee
Chaplain

Visual Arts

Four of our Visual Arts girls, Refiloe, Jemma, Nicola and Masego, had work displayed at a function in Melrose Arch on 26 November 2014. The event was the L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) programme, which recognises and promotes female scientists. The minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, was the keynote speaker.

Masego's large portrait was chosen for the front cover of a publication promoting Mathematics and Science.

Sue Heydenrych
Head of Visual Arts



Masego with her portrait

From the Sports department



Golf

Mercedes received the "Most Promising Women Player" award on Wednesday 12 November 2014, at the Gauteng North Golf Union Awards dinner.



Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge

A few of the girls from the Senior School participated in the Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge last year. This was quite an achievement for all, especially the non-cyclists who rode with minimal training.

Emma, Katy and Georgina rode socially, so were happy to finish in seven hours. They chatted along the route and took in all the water station sites.

Isabel completed the race in 5.08 hours. She placed 17th out of 33 in the U16 girl age group.

Grace, Coral and Anne also rode well. Grace's time was 4.18 and she finished 10th in the U16 age group, Coral finished in a time of 4.20 and Anne's time was 5.23, finishing 26th in the U16 age group.

Well done, girls!



St Mary's girls who participated in the Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge

SA Schools' Boat Race - St Mary's claimed our 8th title

The Boat Race crew, competed at the 14th South African Schools' Boat Race. The crew raced the heads race flat out and succeeded in claiming the fastest time overall by a whopping 30 seconds. This placed the St Mary's crew in the A final against Holy Rosary.

The A final was raced at midday on the Saturday. The conditions were harsh with an incoming tide, a head wind and humid temperatures. The St Mary's 1st crew dominated within the first five strokes of the race. They were leading after 500m and continued to move away from the Holy Rosary crew. The St Mary's coxswain took the quickest line down the river allowing the crew to again almost 60 seconds. This is one of the largest winning margins by a girl's crew.

It was an absolute pleasure coaching these girls. St Mary's rowers have continued to set



The 2014 winning Boat Race crew

up a legacy of excellence.

Caitlin Dace
Head of rowing

Tribute

Clare Rossouw (1935-2015) Junior School Headmistress 1985-1996

On 9 January 2015, we lost our beloved Clare after a long period of suffering.

Clare was headmistress of the Junior School from 1985 to 1996, and she is remembered with great affection by the girls who passed through her hands. Her staff were devoted to her. Among them are Shirleen Raubenheimer and Robynne Dunkley, whom she appointed as a teacher and later a deputy headmistress.

Clare was educated at Durban Girls' College and the University of Pietermaritzburg. Her specialities were botany and zoology, but she taught Mathematics at St Stithians Preparatory School before she became librarian at the Johannesburg College of Education and then headmistress of the Junior School.

The Junior School media centre was named after her when it was opened 10 years after her retirement as headmistress. This was most apt, given Clare's love of literature.

Clare was something of a visionary where the education of children was concerned, and she believed that one should never underestimate a child's intelligence. She challenged the girls and pushed them to new frontiers. They learned and sang Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika, raising some parental eyebrows in the 1980s when the ANC was a banned organisation. One innovation was the introduction of outings to expose girls to the realities of life in South Africa, and the diversity which we now take for granted. On one memorable occasion, a class in the Junior Primary visited the artist Jackson Hlungwane in downtown Johannesburg.

By the time she retired, the Junior School had undergone profound changes in outlook, had acquired new classrooms and a science laboratory, and had almost doubled in size.

Clare was a wonderful friend and mentor. She treated everyone, from the youngest child to the most venerable teacher, with the same respect. After she retired she worked closely with Dean Yates, a former headmaster of St John's College, for the Alexandra Education Committee. She believed, unequivocally, that all children should have the chance of a good education.

A memorial service for Clare will be held this Saturday 17 January at 10h00 at the St Andrew's church in Kensington.

The Oxbridge Academic Programs

The Oxbridge Academic Programs for high school students has recently announced two new four-week programmes for Grades 10 to 12 students. These will be held in the University of St Andrew's in Scotland and the University of California, Los Angeles. They have also added an intensive one-week programme at Corpus Christi College in Oxford. These are in addition to the already successful programmes in Oxford and Cambridge in England, Barcelona and Salamanca in Spain, New York in America and Paris and Montpellier in France, which are open to students from Grades 9 to 12.

St Mary's is pleased to invite you to participate in a webinar with the Oxbridge founder, Professor James Basker, on 28 January 2015 from 18h00 in the seminar room in The Edge. Professor Basker will speak about the opportunities that the

programmes offer and will answer any questions you may have. Students who have attended one of the programmes in the past will be available to answer any questions about their experiences, and Ms Nathanson will be available to answer questions regarding how the school can help to assist students in their planning and coping on their return to school after the programmes.

Please email Ms Nathanson by Friday 23 January (for catering purposes) if you would like to attend the webinar. Should you or your daughter have any further queries about the webinar, please contact Ms Nathanson at nina.nathanson@stmary.co.za and see the Oxbridge website (www.oxbridgeprograms.com) for more details about available programmes.

From the PTA

The winners of Term I 2015 Club 100 are as follows:

100%	Georgina:	Grade 4	R25 000
20%	Abigail:	Grade 000	R 1 550
10%	Gemma:	Grade 5	R 2 725