



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

JUST JUNIOR



Our annual Wheelathon was a wonderful success, despite the heavy rains the night before

From the Pre-Primary department

Dear parents

Little Saints has been buzzing with excitement and curiosity since the beginning of the year. Mrs Taylor and I welcomed all the new children into Grade 000, and the Grade 00s were thrilled to be back at school in our newly renovated premises with Mrs Mortimer and Miss Kay. The children are settled, and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the environment and discovering interesting "precious spaces" in which to play.

The Reggio approach

At Little Saints, as part of the implementation of the Reggio approach, the image of the child is fundamental. Children are seen as researchers, active constructors of knowledge, as well as social beings who are capable, curious and creative.

It forms part of the essence of a child's identity. This term, the children have been intrigued by the enquiry of identity. Each class has explored different aspects of identity such as self-portraits, feelings, hands, families and what makes them special. The children have been given time to express this enquiry through the 100 languages. Provocations set out encouraged the children to use different mediums such as loose parts on the light table, clay, wire, drawing and painting, to name a few.

Learning has been scaffolded by both Mr Hutchinson and Miss Gardner. We look forward to seeing the children's progress as we aim to enrich their learning through a multi-sensory environment.

Dates to diarise

Mon 7	18h00	PTA meeting - boardroom
Tue 8	10h18	Grades 5 and 7 buddy picnic
Wed 9	14h30	EXCO meeting - boardroom
	16h00	Junior Primary inter-house gala
Thu 10	07h30	Grade 3 D assembly
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	14h00	Tennis matches
	18h00	Little Saints Reggio information evening for parents
Fri 11	10h18	Grade 7 cake and candy
	14h00	Prestige galas
Sat 12		Equestrian qualifier 2
Sun 13		Equestrian qualifier 2
Mon 14		Grades 4-7 collaborative research week
	07h30	Junior Primary Easter service
	08h30	Little Saints Easter service
Tue 15	10h18	Grades 6 and 7 buddy picnic
	14h00	Fincom meeting - boardroom
Wed 16	07h30	Senior Primary Eucharist and admission to communion
	09h00	Little Saints - Puppetales
	12h12	Junior School HoD management meeting
Thu 17	07h30	Sports photographs
	07h30	Grade 2 S assembly
	10h18	Grade 7 tea with headmistress
	10h30	Tennis at St Stithians
	14h00	Prep Easter festival
		Grades 2 and 3 tennis festival at home and away
Fri 18	09h00	Little Saints Easter hat parade
	10h00	Grade 3 market day
	10h30	Tennis at St Stithians
		Prep Easter week
Sat 19	10h30	Tennis at St Stithians
		Prep Easter festival

Arts and music

In the Atelier, the children have been experimenting with clay, wire and various paint techniques with Miss Gardner. Each week their skills are developing as they explore new materials and tools, and express their imagination through art. Mr Hutchinson has been telling the children stories through song, and exploring musical instruments with all the classes. They dance, move and sing, both inside and outside the classroom and piazza.

Sport

Every Wednesday during summer, the Grade 00s grab their towels, goggles, caps and arm bands, and make their way down to the big pool to swim. The children relish the opportunity to swim in the pool where the "big girls" swim. It is wonderful to see how confident they are becoming in their swimming abilities. The ability to swim is a lifelong skill and one St Mary's encourages all children to master.

Entertainment

This term the children were entertained by various outside activities. We had a visit from the Lombardi Lions, as well as Betty Button from On Cue Theater Productions.

Wheelathon

Our annual Wheelathon was a wonderful success, despite the heavy rains the night before. The children had such fun as they whizzed around the tennis courts on their bicycles, tricycles, scooters or with

their prams. The promise of frozen yoghurt had the children completing their laps in record speed. Thank you to all the parents who supported our fundraiser. We look forward to using the funds collected to enrich our outdoor play areas with a mud kitchen and sound garden.

Reminders

At the Little Saints information evening, the emergent curriculum will be discussed in more detail and you will have the opportunity to see slides of the children and teachers in action. Please save the date as we are looking forward to sharing our passion for the Reggio approach with you. The information evening will take place at Little Saints at 18h00 on Thursday 10 March.

As Loris Malaguzzi once said, "Each child is unique and the protagonist of his or her own growth. Children desire to acquire knowledge, have much capacity for curiosity and amazement, and yearn to create relationships with others and communicate."

With kindest regards

Celia Diana

Co-ordinator: Little Saints

From the chaplain

As I write this article, as a country, two days have passed since the presentation of the Budget in parliament. Overall, the response of rating agencies and economists has been cautiously optimistic, although some feel there is not enough to curb government spending within the Budget. Our government - and our nation - needs our prayers in putting the plans outlined by the budget into action. Today's headline on the front of page of The Star reads, "Varsities on brink of collapse" (Friday 26 February), as conflict rages in various universities in our land. To date, the rescue of three miners stuck in the shaft in Lily mine is still fraught with difficulties.

Let us take just a moment to pray the words of one of my favourite hymns:

*Lord, we long for You to move in power
There's a hunger deep within our hearts
To see healing in our nation
Send Your Spirit to revive us*

*Heal our nation
Heal our nation
Heal our nation
Pour out Your Spirit on this land*

*Lord we hear Your Spirit, coming closer
A mighty wave to break upon our land
Bringing justice, and forgiveness
God we cry to You, "Revive us"
© 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

Revd Claudia Coustas
Chaplain

Meet the heads of the Junior School



Robynne Dunkley (deputy headmistress: Senior Primary), Des Hugo (headmistress: Junior School),
Di Gordon (deputy headmistress: Junior Primary)

Public speaking

On Monday 15 February, at St Mary's, two teams of Grade 7 girls spoke at the Speech and Drama College's Public Speaking Festival. The girls worked in groups of four and chose a television series as a topic. The teams spoke extremely well, and were commended on their strong material and good audience engagement.

Congratulations to Claire Mcivor, Sarah Ellis-Clarke, Hannah Moore, Megan Soll, Ella Roseveare, Ashleigh Simonato, Jade Adams and Ghita Economakis for preparing interesting speeches and delivering them with confidence. Thanks to Lara Thom for the excellent way in which she helped to run the evening and introduce the teams.

Linda Smith
English co-ordinator



Well done to both our teams

Grade 4 poetry

The Dolphin

One noisy blowhole
One pointed fin
One flapping fluke.
Jumping, swimming, diving.
Smooth and grey.
Like an Olympic diver
Queen of the sea.

Isabela Erasmus
Grade 4 B

The Leopard

Two pointed ears
Four long legs
One swishing tail.
Running, climbing, attacking.
Soft and spotted.
Camouflaged like a chameleon.
Pouncing on his prey.

Kate Estill
Grade 4 B



Parent Corner

Secrets to easing back to school and work

I've been on holiday for two weeks and it's been great to sleep in, eat breakfast late, not plan anything in particular and to generally make the day up as we go. Some nights we have gone to bed late and others very early. We have been going with the flow, so to speak - all 12 of us.

It's been fun sharing a room with our two nieces for five days and talking late into the night, so much so that my husband wanted to know where the hot chocolate, marshmallows and Marie biscuits were for a midnight feast! It's been a delight to watch my teenage son be a brilliant playmate non-stop for his four-year old cousin, and to play hysterical family games together. And it's been the first year in 20 that our eldest son has flown the coop and not shared our family holiday with us, and we have had to get comfortable with that! Being a parent means getting comfortable with constant growth and change brought about by the human beings we are blessed with.

Being away on a holiday with family and friends is a bit like living in a fish bowl. It's always fascinating to see what makes families work and what the catalysts are that create chaos and meltdowns. There is no rocket science to this, it's really quite simple and it happens in every family.

What makes families work:

- Love and acceptance
- Belonging and togetherness
- Family leadership that keeps manipulation from children in check
- Teamwork between mum and dad if both are present
- Distracting children from what they shouldn't be doing to help you avoid constant disciplining, which can be exhausting for everyone
- Creating interesting outings and activities to do as a family
- Getting enough sleep
- Routine (regular wake-up times, mealtimes, bathtime and bedtime are the basics)

Catalysts for family chaos:

- Hungry children
- Tired children who are desperate for bed
- Parents who are on their own *plak*, forgetting the need for predictability in a child's day, especially

children under the age of eight, and those children who thrive on lots of sleep (some children are less able to cope with irregular bedtimes than others)

- Parents fighting/disagreeing all the time (makes children feel unsafe)
- Parents who are unfocused on the children even though they are physically present - this is when children nag in order to get their parents' attention
- Lack of routine

Now that the holidays are over, take the lessons from the lists above and put them into practice as you ease back into work and getting your children back to school:

1. Bring back regular wake-up times.
2. Make sure your children go to bed at the same time each night, and get enough sleep.
3. Eat meals at the same time each night.
4. Try and eat at least one meal a day together, where you all connect with each other (switch the TV and cellphones off).
5. Get back to each member of the family doing their allotted chores.
6. Resume reading bedtime stories to your pre- and primary schoolchildren.
7. If you have more than one child, make sure you settle the rules around who sits where in the car on the way to school, so that you don't have a major negotiation or fight on your hands every morning.

Follow these seven steps to family sanity, and have a great start to the new year.

Nikki Bush

Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Tech-Savvy Parenting* (Bookstorm, 2014), *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009)

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From the Sports department

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK AHEAD: 7-13 MARCH (WEEK 9)

Date	Sport	Teams	Venue	Time	Transport	Teacher
Wednesday 9 March	Swimming	Junior Primary inter-house gala	St Mary's	16h00		Ms Wood
Thursday 10 March	Tennis	Final play-offs	TBC	14h00		Mrs Plant
Friday 11 March	Swimming - Prestige galas	A team B team C and D team	St Stithians Girls St Mary's St Katharine's	14h00	Bus Bus	Mrs Samson Mrs Hallendorff Ms Wood

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK AHEAD: 9 FEBRUARY TO 6 MARCH (WEEK 8)

Date	Sport	Teams	Venue	Time	Transport	Teacher
Thursday 17 March	Tennis	Grade 2 festival Grade 3 festival	St Mary's Roedean	14h00	Bus	Mrs Plant Mrs Lowndes
Friday 18 March	JUNIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES END					

Swimming

Although we are thankful for the rain, it has been a frustrating couple of weeks, with frequent interruptions in the training and gala schedules. The C and D teams were the only ones to compete on Friday 5 February and once again did extremely well. Congratulations to all the swimmers.

Friday 5 February

C and D team: St David's C 179, St John's B 145, St Mary's C 137, St John's C 103, St Peter's Girls C 87, St Katharine's B 78, St Stithians Girls C 71, St Mary's D 64

Friday 12 February

A team: St Mary's 105, St Andrew's 95, Kingsmead 56, St Teresa's 53, Roedean 44

B team: St Stithians Boys A 185, St Mary's B 143, St Peter's Boys B 120, Pridwin A 113, St Andrews B 101, The Ridge B 86, Kingsmead B 82

C and D team: St Mary's C 81, St Andrew's C 77, Kingsmead & St Mary's D 41

St Stithians A team 50m night gala

There were concerns on Wednesday 24 February that we would not be able to continue with the night gala, owing to the afternoon's thunderstorms. St Mary's girls fought hard and came out tops once again. It was a superb effort by all the swimmers – well done! St Mary's 314, St Andrew's 309, St Stithians 222, St Peter's 208, Brescia 202, APPS 174, Holy Rosary 162, St Teresa's 135.

Senior Primary inter-house gala

It was with a sigh of relief that we were able to complete the inter-house gala on Tuesday 16 February. Every girl in the Senior Primary who attended the gala swam and enjoyed every moment, and there was constant cheering for teammates. Lions won the gala convincingly and congratulations to Springboks for winning the spirit award. Congratulations also to Jasmin Vermeulen and Abigail Milella for winning the Junior and Senior Victrix Ludorum respectively.

Jane Samson

HoD: Junior School sport

Hockey

Congratulations to the girls who have been selected for the following teams:

U13 D9 team

Caitlin Breytenbach, Mia Davidson, Ghita Economakis, Tasmin Meadows, Jade Adams, Dominique Vercellotti and Ashley Simonato. Abigail Milella and Sanam Soni have been selected as reserves.

U12 D9 team

Josie Apps, Ella Babaya, Danielle Grobbelaar, Georgina Hector, Nyakallo Kodisang and Anna Patricios.

Jane Samson

HoD: Junior School sport

Squash

Please note that only white soles and gum soles will be accepted on the courts. Back or blue soles will not be allowed on the courts - these mark the courts very badly.

Protective eyewear is compulsory while on court. It is very easy to replace a racket or shoes, but an eye lost is impossible to replace. Please note that prescription glasses are permitted and seen as protective eyewear.

Jennifer Fox

Squash Coach



The above photographs are examples of what is not permitted and permitted on the squash courts

Tennis

Unfortunately the weather continues to affect the tennis fixtures. Some matches were played on Thursday 11 February but all the matches were rained out on 25 February.

Congratulations to the AB team that beat Holy Rosary on 11 February. The team was without the Grade 7 players, but the Grade 6s were up to the challenge and played very well.

Results

11 February 2016

St Mary's A bt Holy Rosary A 32-31

St Mary's B bt Holy Rosary B 34-29

St Mary's C bt St Katharine's C 23-5

St Mary's D bt St Katharine's D 21-7

René Plant

Tennis coach

JUNIOR SCHOOL TUCK-SHOP PRICE LIST

Day	Meal	Price
Mondays	Chicken mayo salad rolls	R15
	Toasted sandwiches	R15
	Fruit salad cup with custard	R15
Tuesdays	Tuna pasta salad	R20
	Toasted sandwiches	R15
	Boerie rolls	R15
Wednesdays	Currie and rice	R20
	Toasted sandwiches	R15
	Bran and apple muffin	R10
Thursdays	Chicken mayo salad	R20
	Toasted sandwiches	R15
	Fruit cup	R15
Friday	Ham and cheese salad rolls	R15
	Toasted sandwich	R15
	Hot dogs	R15