



Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

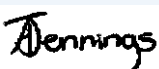
In response to last night's address by President Ramaphosa, I wish to confirm that our School will remain open until 7 August. The Senior School girls are all writing exams now and will be coming into school to write these unless they have received permission from Mrs Miller to write online. The Junior School will continue with their contact and online days until the end of the term. The Boarding School remains open until the end of the term. I take this opportunity to thank our teaching, administrative and support staff for their continued efforts to ensure that school can continue as 'normal' under the current circumstances. Their dedication and commitment is valued and appreciated.

Last week I shared with you that we would be appointing an Acting Deputy of Operations in the Junior School. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Nelisiwe Zwane has been appointed and she will occupy this position until the end of the year. I thank Mrs Zwane for stepping into this role and wish her every success.

In response to the girls' concerns regarding the hair rules, and after consultation with various stakeholders, the decision has been taken to not apply any hair rules for the remainder of this term and for the month of September. Towards the end of September, the students will have the opportunity to contribute to a new set of guidelines based on their lived experience as a community.

I wish our Senior School students everything of the best as they write their examinations these next two weeks. You have worked diligently and overcome the challenges associated with attending school during a pandemic and with final preparations, you are ready to affirm what you have learnt in these upcoming examinations.

Best wishes


Mrs Jennings (Mrs)
Acting Head of School

COVID-19 Protocol Update ~ Sr Lizl and Sr Annika

In case your daughter presents with COVID-19 symptoms, please seek immediate medical advice by calling your medical facility and then proceed to the medical centre your General Practitioner directs you to.

If confirmed as being COVID-19 positive, the person will be advised to self-quarantine at home for a minimum period of 14 days. Please note that you should produce a doctor's clearance certificate before your daughter is allowed to return to school. Please inform us directly should your daughter have been sent for a test.

We hope that you and your family will stay safe in this time.

Junior School
Channels of Communication

Pastoral Matters
Class or Form Teacher

Academic Matters
Intersen Phase (Grade 4-7)
Deputy of Academics
Mrs L Whitelaw
whitelaw@stmarys.pta.school.za

Academic Matters
Foundation Phase (Grade 0-3)
Acting Head of Foundation Phase
Mrs F Pienaar
fpienaar@stmarys.pta.school.za

Senior School
Channels of Communication

Pastoral Matters
Grade Heads

Grade 8 – Mrs B Fineberg
bfineberg@stmarys.pta.school.za

Grade 9 – Mrs A Ras
aras@stmarys.pta.school.za

Grade 10 – Miss A Watson
awatson@stmarys.pta.school.za

Grade 11 – Mrs S Stone
stone@stmarys.pta.school.za

Grade 12 – Miss J Brown
jbrown@stmarys.pta.school.za

Academic Matters
Vice-principal of Academics
Mrs J Miller
jmiller@stmarys.pta.school.za

Boarding
Channels of Communication

Operational Matters—Boarding Office
Mrs A Lotter
alotter@stmarys.pta.school.za

Mrs C Victor
cvictor@stmarys.pta.school.za

Pastoral Matters—Senior House Mother
Mrs P Pinker
ppinker@stmarys.pta.school.za

If she believes in herself...she will fly.

Senior School - Week Ahead (21 - 31 July)

- ◆ All Senior School girls writing midyear examinations.
- ◆ School uniform or school tracksuits may be worn

Academic Integrity has never been as important as now. Please extend our educators' hands and protect the integrity of all online examinations.

Exams for the Week 27 - 31 July

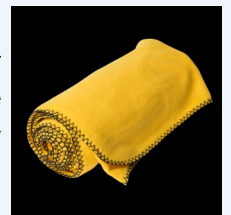


	Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12		
	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3
	07:45	11:45	07:45	11:45	07:45	11:45	07:45	11:45	07:45	11:45	13:45
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10:00	14:00	10:00	14:00	11:00	14:00	11:00	14:00	11:00	14:00	17:00
Mon 27 Jul			Digital Technology Practical A	Digital Technology Practical B	Afrikaans Zulu Sep	Consumer Studies PAT (A)	Business Studies		Maths I		
Tue 28 Jul	Technology			EMS	IT Theory Consumer Studies	Consumer Studies PAT (B)	English		History I Consumer Studies I Music I		Music II
Wed 29 Jul		English	Afrikaans Sepedi Zulu Immigrant French		French	French Oral	Maths		English II		
Thur 30 Jul	Life Sciences			Phys Science	Phys Science Maths Lit		Afrikaans Sepedi Zulu		Life Sciences II		Drama Practical
Fri 31 Jul		LO 1hr	Choice 1 and 2: Dramatic Arts Visual Art Music/Adv Music French Digital Technology Theory		Maths		History	Consumer Studies PAT	Maths II		

Please refer to Newsletter dated 17 July for more information regarding examination rules.

Use of blankets during Senior School exams

The Senior School girls may use a blanket while writing their exams. They must bring the blanket in a plastic bag to school. The plastic bag will be sanitised at the screening venue in the morning. They may only take the blanket out of the bag in the examination venue. Once they finish writing their exam the blanket must go back into the plastic bag. No blanket may be used elsewhere at the school or be stored in a locker.



If she believes in herself...she will fly.

Junior School - Week Ahead

ONSITE SCHEDULE:

Monday, 27 July	Tuesday, 28 July	Wednesday, 29 July	Thursday, 30 July	Friday, 31 July
Gr 0F, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Gr6	Gr 0F, Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 5 and Gr 7	Gr 0G, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Gr 6.	Gr 0G, Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 5 and Gr 7.	All grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme

IMPORTANT:



Parents are reminded to complete the **weekly attendance surveys** on Thursdays/Fridays to indicate their daughters' attendance the following week. This is of utmost importance to assist us with teacher/learner ratio planning and logistics while meeting the social distancing regulations.



Personal devices: Girls are reminded to make sure their devices are charged before they come to school.



Distance Learning Portal: The Junior School timetables and weekly schedules are loaded weekly on a Friday afternoon and should be referenced in conjunction with the grade's timetable. Please access the timetables and weekly schedules on the Distance Learning Portal on the school website or directly via this URL: <http://www.stmarys.pta.school.za/distancelearning>



School Uniform Arrangements for remainder of Term 2: The Junior School girls may wear civvies to school for the remainder of Term 2.

◇ No gloves will be allowed as it poses a high risk for the transmission of the virus.

Parent Feedback on Junior School Wellness Window Activities ~ The Counselling Centre

Dear Parents,

In this week's Wellness Window, we shifted our focus outwards, in order to encourage the girls to look beyond themselves and become aware of how they can make a difference in the lives of those around them – whether closer to home or in their communities. The girls were challenged to identify the potential ways they could contribute or help.

If you would like to extend this theme in your home, the following tips may be useful to encourage community-mindedness in our children:

- ◆ Explore your community: Get out and about to become familiar with your community and surrounding area.
- ◆ Talk with people who help you: Talk with shop assistants, car and security guards, waiters, etc. If you show respect for community members and the important jobs they do, your child will become aware of and learn to respect others just by being with you.
- ◆ Introduce your child to people who make your community work: Tours can often be arranged at police stations, bakeries, the post office, recycling stations, and community outreach programs.
- ◆ Pitch in: Get involved in making a difference in your community, and take your child along to help, explaining why it is important to you.

The takeaway: Raising a child who engages with her community may help her to be happier and healthier in the long run if she continues to help others as she grows up. Research on adults has shown the positive effects of volunteering—so get out there and get involved in your community!

If she believes in herself...she will fly.

Grade 0:

Our Grade 0's celebrated their 100 days smarter with their classmates virtually on Friday, 24 July!



Junior School: Term 3

We are in the process of looking at how our Michaelmas term will run, so that we can have as much contact time with the girls who are able to come to school, as possible, while staying safely within the requirements of Covid-19. As soon as we are able to, we will communicate this to our DSG community.

Junior School: Academics ~ Mrs L Whitelaw

'Resilience is the ability to bounce back when things don't go as planned'. 2020 has certainly created many opportunities and learning experiences for all of us to develop these skills. We have continually made changes to survive a global pandemic and to accommodate new lockdown regulations.

I am extremely proud of how the staff and girls have adapted to distance learning. We have become familiar with the different platforms that we are using to ensure that education has continued, and the girls are in a better routine of joining the online lessons. Thank you to all concerned for your patience, support and understanding in ensuring that we can continue teaching the girls.

Our academic calendar is divided into two cycles. We have just ended our first cycle with reports being available online on 31 July. Parent interviews will take place on 4 and 5 August from 13:30 to 18:00. Bookings with your daughter's teachers will be available on the school website: www.stmarys.pta.school.za - Juniors - Parent/Teacher Meetings - Select teacher - Select timeslot

Please note that appointments are 10 minutes long. Should you require a longer time with any staff member, I request that you email the teacher concerned to make an alternate appointment. **Bookings will close at 14:00 on 3 August.**

Once you have made your booking to meet a teacher, you will receive an invitation to join them on a 'Teams Meeting' as these interviews will take place virtually. Please accept this invitation when you receive the notification.

With the start of Cycle 2, we are adjusting the Grade 5, 6 and 7 timetables slightly. Instead of them attending lessons in History, Geography and Natural Science each week, they will be taught one of the subjects only for three weeks, before moving on to the next subject. These three subjects will be rotated over a period of 9 weeks.

The following rotation will take place as from 27 July.

Date	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
27 July - 07 Aug 01 Sept - 04 Sept	History	NS	Geography
07 Sept - 25 Sept	Geography	History	NS
28 Sept - 16 Oct	NS	Geography	History

If she believes in herself...she will fly.

Mandela Day - Junior School Collections ~ Mrs van Wyk

We have an awesome team of superheroes in the Junior School. The vegetables and food was enough to feed an army. And it did! The donations went to various charities who in turn fed the hungry in old age homes and orphanages and at soup kitchens across Pretoria – from Arcadia and Sunnyside to Danville and Atteridgeville to Eersterus and Mamelodi.



Our girls and staff took up the challenge and I was thrilled to see blankets being donated to baby care organisations, soup being made for the poor and the environment being cleaned. Everyone who did something made a difference to someone and that is what counts.



JUNIOR SCHOOL REMINDERS

- ◇ Thursdays and Fridays: Attendance submission for the following week
- ◇ Friday, 31 July: JS Reports available online
- ◇ Tuesday, 04 August: Parent/Teacher Interviews
- ◇ Wednesday, 05 August: Parent/Teacher interviews
- ◇ August holidays dates: School closes on Friday, 7 August and re-opens on Tuesday, 1 September.



If she believes in herself...she will fly.