

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Today would have marked the end of the Trinity Term and the start of the August holidays. For families with brothers, there is possibly much comparison been drawn between the schools and for some this might feel unfair. I acknowledge that staff and students are tired and in need of a well-deserved break. I take this opportunity to thank the DSG community for committing to the extra week of school, knowing that the decision was taken in the best interest of the School. One more week to go – the August holidays are around the corner.

Advocate Sesi Baloyi SC has been appointed by the Governing Body to lead the independent investigation into racism, xenophobia and homophobia. In order to commence her engagement with the School, she has requested to meet with the St Mary's DSG community. The objective of the meeting is to introduce the investigators and their Terms of Reference, and to share the structure that the investigation will take. This initial meeting is intended to share information with the School community and the discussion will be limited to Advocate Baloyi outlining this information. An invitation was sent to the Community yesterday to attend this virtual meeting on Friday evening at 17:00. Everyone who replied and completed the Microsoft Form by lunchtime today will receive the link via email after 14:00, ahead of the meeting. In order to support those that are not able to join the meeting, further correspondence will be issued to the School community next week.

Advocate Ben Winks and Advocate Okyerebea Ampofo-Anti have been appointed to lead the investigation into cyberbullying and intimidation. Both advocates are experts in the field of social media law. This investigation is well underway and we should receive the outcome and proposed way forward early next week.

As part of our transformation journey, the decision was taken to appoint a Deputy Head of Transformation and Diversity in the Senior School and a Head of Transformation and Diversity in the Junior School. The adverts for both these positions were published this week and we look forward to interviewing the short listed candidates towards the end of August. The successful applicants will lead the transformation and diversity portfolio and ensure that St Mary's DSG remains committed to the implementation of the DSG Transformation Strategy and the core focus of 'Investing in and celebrating our diversity.'

One of the joys of working in a school is the creative initiatives led by our staff. We look forward to a virtual staff concert initiated by Mrs Hildegard Joseph, aptly entitled Ushirika, which is Swahili for synergy, to be live streamed on Thursday evening, 6 August. You can read more about this initiative in this newsletter and the link to the concert will be shared next week. We also look forward to the completion of another exciting project - Fr Vernon is in the process of having the different verses of our school hymn, Praise my Soul, translated into four of our official South African languages taught at our school. We look forward to this being adopted as the official version of our school hymn. Music is a wonderful instrument for healing and I thank Mrs Joseph and Fr Vernon for leading these initiatives.

To all our students – stay focused and committed to your academics in the week ahead. To our Senior School students, you are probably feeling weary as you approach the last week of exams. Stay strong and continue to give of your best. Take courage in this famous quote by Nelson Mandela.

Best wishes


Alison Jennings (Mrs)
Acting Head of School



Junior School Channels of Communication

Pastoral Matters
Class or Form Teacher

Academic Matters
Intersen Phase (Grade 4-7)

Deputy of Academics
Mrs L Whitelaw

lwhitelaw@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
sstone@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

- ◆ 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 03-07 August (Please refer to Newsletter dated 17 July for more information regarding examination rules.)

	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 3 Aug	Maths 2hrs			Maths 2hrs	Dramatic Arts 2hrs Vis Art 2hrs Music 3hrs		Phys Sci 3hrs Maths Lit 2½hrs		Bus St 3hrs		
Tue 4 Aug		Afrikaans Sepedi Zulu Immigrant French 1½hrs	LO 1½hrs		Life Science 3hrs	Life Science Practical 1½hrs	Vis Art 3hrs French 2½hrs	French Orals	Afrikaans Sepedi Zulu II 2½hrs		
Wed 5 Aug	EMS 1½hrs			Life Science I 1½hrs	English 2½hrs		Dramatic Arts 2½hrs Mus I 3hrs	Drama Practical	Phys Sci II 3hrs Maths Lit II 3hrs		
Thur 6 Aug		Physical Science 2hrs	English 2hrs		Geography 3 hrs CAT 2hrs		Geography 3hrs IT Practical 2hrs		History II 3hrs	Cons St PAT 3½hrs	
Fri 7 Aug	Choice 1 and 2: Dramatic Arts 1hr Visual Art 1hr Music/Adv Mus 1hr French 1hr DT Theory 1½hrs		Technology 1½hrs		Accounting 3hrs		IT I 2hrs Consumer Studies 2½hrs		IT Practi- cal 3hrs		

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.

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JUNIOR SCHOOL - WEEK AHEAD

ONSITE SCHEDULE:

Monday, 3 August	Tuesday, 4 August	Wednesday, 5 August	Thursday, 6 August	Friday, 7 August
Gr 0F, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Gr 6	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 at home.

JUNIOR SCHOOL - TERM 3

On our return for the Michealmas Term in September, our academic day will be extended to ensure more contact time and an extra onsite day will be added on a rotational basis.

Please take note of the new times for the end of our school days:

- ◆ Gr 0 will end at 12:30
- ◆ Gr 1 – 3 will end at 13:30
- ◆ Gr 4 – 7 will end at 14:00
- ◆ On Friday school will still close at 13:15
- ◆ Please note that under the present Covid-19 protocols Aftercare and onsite extra-mural activities will not commence until further notice.
- ◆ Please remember to pack extra lunch as cooked lunch will not be available.
- ◆ All cultural activities and individual music lessons will continue online until further notice.
- ◆ New Timetables and Schedules for Term 3 will be posted on the Distance Learning Portal by Friday, 28 August.
- ◆ A reminder that girls will return for Term 3 on 1 September in summer uniform.
- ◆ Fridays will be an onsite day on a rotational basis for Gr 1-7.

	Monday (onsite)	Tuesday (onsite)	Wednesday (onsite)	Thursday (onsite)	Friday (onsite)
1 – 4 Sept		Gr 0F,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,3,4,6	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7	Gr 0F,3,4,6
7 – 11 Sept	Gr 0F,3,4,6	Gr 0F,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,3,4,6	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7
14 – 18 Sept	Gr 0F,3,4,6	Gr 0F,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,3,4,6	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7	Gr 0F,3,4,6
21 – 25 Sept	Gr 0F,3,4,6	Gr 0F,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,3,4,6	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7	Gr 0G,1,2,5,7

This rotation will continue until we are allowed to lift the Covid-19 protocols as set out by the South African Department of Health.

- ◆ Grade 5, 6 and 7 will continue with the rotation schedule for History, Geography and Natural Science as per communication in last week's Newsletter.

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

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PARENT FEEDBACK ON JUNIOR SCHOOL WELLNESS WINDOW ACTIVITIES ~ The Counselling Centre

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of term the Wellness Window Activity for Grade 0 - 4 in week 11 focussed on a review of some of the topics covered with the girls. They were reminded that they have learned quite a lot about how to care for themselves. You can continue to support this concept at home by acknowledging the growth and resilience you have observed in your daughter over the last 11 weeks. Some of the topics reviewed this week are:

- ◇ Having healthy habits
- ◇ Remembering that they are wonderful just as they are
- ◇ Acknowledging the feelings inside their hearts
- ◇ Speaking kindly and positively to themselves
- ◇ Different coping skills that can be used on tough days



In this week's Wellness Window for the Grade 5, 6 and 7 girls, the focus on community building was extended. The girls were asked to build upon their assessment of the needs in their community and to develop a detailed plan outlining what and who they would need to help them to meet the identified need in their community. They also listed steps that they would need to follow in order to carry out their plan. While this exercise is only theoretical, the girls now have a basis to work from, should they feel led to help in their respective communities. You can continue to build upon this by encouraging your daughter to 'see' the needs around her and to develop a sense of compassion for those less fortunate.

OUTREACH ~ Mrs Van Wyk



As we head into the last week of the term we would like to send out a big plea for the following items:

- ◇ **Foundation phase:** a bar of soap – this is because when people are juggling their budgets a hungry tummy wins over a bar of soap. And we all know soap is necessary to help fight the spread of the Corona virus.
- ◇ **Intersen phase:** A tin of food **or** a packet of rice.

All these items can be placed in the foyer of the Junior School by next week Thursday at the latest.

Thank you for the beautiful blankets that have been handed in. They will be distributed on the weekend. A reminder that next Thursday is the last day for blankets to be handed in.

We have also received a request to support the SPCA in fundraising as they have no other income currently. The Grade 6s, under Scarlett Lim Ah Tock's encouragement, have challenged the girls at school to donate a small amount of their pocket money to this cause by simply clicking on the link: [SPCA donation](#)



I would like to say how immensely proud I am of all our girls and the wonderful giving and caring attitude they show every day to the world around them. Thank you to the families and friends that support them continually to make a difference.

**THANK
YOU!**

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

USHIRIKA

A VIRTUAL CONCERT OF SYNERGY PRESENTED BY THE TEACHERS OF ST MARY'S DSG

Mrs Joseph ~ Head of Music and Drama (Junior School)

With the end of term in sight, we all look back on a tumultuous few months that has left us physically and emotionally drained and scarred. However, we can also look forward to a new dawn as we reach out helping and healing hands to the ones with whom we are intricately connected: our families, our communities and all people across the world.

With this anticipation of a new dawn floating through my mind, I approached the academic staff of our school and asked them to join me in creating a virtual staff concert to end off this term. As the positive replies flooded my inbox, my heart soared as it was clear that we all sensed that this was a much needed opportunity to embrace our circumstances and to take the first step towards healing.

I would, therefore, like to invite you to join us for our first virtual staff concert where we will share a part of ourselves, our thoughts and our feelings through poetry recitals, readings and music performances. The theme for our concert is **Ushirika**, a Swahili word that means synergy. I am sure you will enjoy the diverse programme we as teachers have put together as we affirm that we are Stronger Together!



The virtual concert will be streamed on the DSG YouTube channel on Thursday, 6 August at 18h30. The link to the concert will be made available early next week on the school communicator and social media pages.



REMINDERS

- ◇ Monday, 3 August:
Junior School Parent/Teacher interview booking sheets closing at 14h00.
- ◇ Tuesday, 4 August:
Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews
- ◇ Wednesday, 5 August:
Junior School Parent/Teacher interviews
- ◇ August holidays dates:
School closing on Friday, 7 August
School opening on Tuesday, 1 September.

JOIN OUR
Team

WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND
THE ST MARY'S DSG FAMILY...

For more information about our vacancies please go to
www.stmarys.pta.school.za