



Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

The winter term traditionally feels like the longest term of the year and as I reflect on this past term, aspects of the term feel like they have whizzed by while others certainly have felt like we've marked time. Screening, masks and social distancing have become a regular component of our daily routine and I wish to thank all staff, students and parents for assisting the School. We are mindful of all who have been impacted by the virus and our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones.

It is always sad when members of our community make the decision to leave the employ of our school or due to retirement, their journey at DSG comes to an end and today is no different. Staff are a critical component in the day to day life of our school and everyone is an important piece of the puzzle.

At the end of July, we said good-bye to Ms Albertina Lenkoane, one of our Food Service Assistants, after 16 years of service to the School. We thank Ms Lenkoane for her dedicated service and for the creative flair with she always presented the food, especially when the School hosted functions.

At the end of this term, we bid farewell to Mr Roland de Beer, our Estates Manager, after 16 years of service to the School. We thank Mr de Beer for always ensuring that the school grounds and facilities were ready for activity, learning and enjoyment. We welcome Mr Sean McCann to the team and wish him many happy years at DSG.

We also say good-bye to Mrs Therese Ewart-Phipps, our Head of English in the Junior School. We thank her for 15 years of service to the St Mary's DSG community and thank her for the care she has always shown to each child entrusted to her. Mrs Astrid van Wyk will teach Mrs Ewart-Phipps' English classes, Mrs Hildegard Joseph will adopt the 7E Form Class and Mrs Jenny van Staden has been appointed as Acting Head of English until the end of the year. With Mrs Zwane's appointment as Acting Deputy Head of Operations in the Junior School, Ms Idah Makhafola has been appointed as Acting Head of Sepedi. Thank you to these teachers for taking on these new roles and we wish them every success.

In the Senior School we bid farewell to Mrs Marinda Nesor, Deputy Head of Student Affairs, after 14 years of service to the School. We thank Mrs Nesor for her commitment and dedication to the girls in her care and the teaching profession. Mrs Hannelie le Roux will teach Mrs Nesor's Grade 9 Afrikaans class until the end of the year.

Our final good-bye for this term is to the Revd Canon Angus Paterson. Fr Paterson will be remembered for the care he took to know each student and staff member and for his deep faith in God and belief in the good of all people.

At the end of the year we will bid farewell to a few staff as they retire or move onto new adventures. I wish to inform the community now, so that you are not taken by surprise by several advertisements that will be published during the August holidays as we begin the recruitment process. The following colleagues will leave St Mary's DSG at the end of 2020.

Dr Marthe Pienaar – Educational Psychologist and Head of the Multi-disciplinary Team

Mr Christo Potgieter – Senior School Dramatic Arts Teacher

Mrs Youve Singh – Senior School Head of English

Ms Inka Vonkeman – Senior School English Teacher

Ms Shannon Black – Junior School Mathematics Teacher

Mrs Fabienne Krusekopf – Junior School Physical Education Teacher and Swimming Organiser

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

Change can be unsettling but at the same time opens the door for opportunity and possibility. We wish these colleagues everything of the best as they conclude their respective journeys at St Mary's DSG and prepare for the new chapter that awaits them.

Thank you to the entire DSG Community for the term that has passed. Firstly, I wish to thank the entire staff for the vital role they have each played to keep this ship on course and wish them a restful and well-deserved holiday. I thank our parents for their continued support of the School and for walking this journey with us. Lastly, I thank our girls. Without you there would be no school and I look forward with hope to the Michaelmas Term and all that we will achieve collectively to make DSG a school where all girls and staff know that they belong and are valued.

Travel safely if you are going on holiday and enjoy this time with family. We look forward to the girls' safe return on 31 August for all boarders and 1 September for all day girls.

Best wishes

Denning
Alison Jennings (Mrs)
Acting Head of School



ST MARY'S DSG OUTREACH

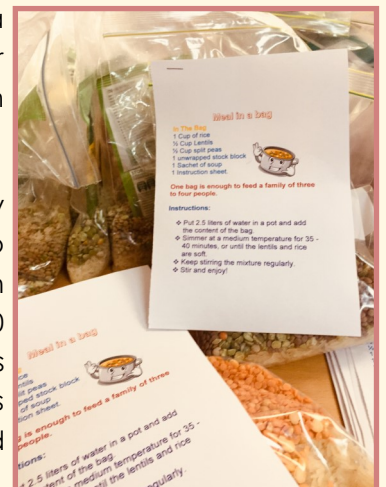
Senior School ~ Mrs Vorster

The Grade 9 President's Award girls accepted a challenge to earn extra community service hours for their portfolios by collecting 97 'Meals in a bag' for Kwaggasrand LSen School. Kwaggasrand School is a school for learners with special needs and has 97 children on their feeding scheme.



The St Mary's DSG staff saw an opportunity to contribute to a cause that is close to every teacher's heart and together with the Grade 9 President's Award girls 190 meals were collected and delivered this week at Kwaggasrand School. The meals will be sent home over the long-weekend to help sustain the families in need.

Let us be the difference we want to see in this world!



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SENIOR SCHOOL

Reports

School reports for Gr 8-12 will be available online on Friday 7 August at 12:00. Please note that this report will reflect the term 2 marks and the accompanying comments. An exam mark report will be available on Monday, 7 September.

Dress Code for Term 3

Summer uniform (with no blazer) to be worn

Academic lessons

Detailed arrangements for St Mary's DSG Senior School classes until half term

Date	Day	Grade who may choose to return to School	Grades only offered online schooling	Date	Day	Grade who may choose to return to School	Grades only offered online schooling
01-04 Sept		Grades 12 and 11 for whole week		28 Sept- 02 Oct		Grades 12 and 11 for whole week	
01 Sept	1	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9	28 Sept	8	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10
02 Sept	2	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10	29 Sept	9	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9
03 Sept	3	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10	30 Sept	10	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10
04 Sept	4	Grade 11 Leadership Camp (on campus)	Grade 8, 9, and 10	01 Oct	1	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10
				02 Oct	2	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9
07-11 Sept		Grade 12 and 11 for whole week		05-09 Oct		Grades 12 and 11 for whole week	
07 Sept	5	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10	05 Oct	5	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10
08 Sept	6	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10	06 Oct	6	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10
09 Sept	7	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9	07 Oct	7	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9
10 Sept	8	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10	08 Oct	8	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10
11 Sept	9	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10	09 Oct	9	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10
14-18 Sept		Grade 12 and 11 for whole week		12-15 Oct		Grades 11 for whole week	
14 Sept	10	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9	12 Oct	8	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9
15 Sept	1	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10	13 Oct	9	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10
16 Sept	2	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10	14 Oct	10	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10
17 Sept	3	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9	15 Oct	1	Gr 10; Half term starts at 12:00	Grade 8 and 9
18 Sept	4	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10	16 Oct		HALF TERM	
21-23 Sept		Grade 12 and 11 for whole week		<u>Extra mural activities</u>			
21 Sept	5	Grade 8	Grade 9 and 10	Information on Sport and Cultural activities to be communicated at the start of the term as more clarity about Covid regulations are received.			
22 Sept	6	Grade 10	Grade 8 and 9				
23 Sept	7	Grade 9	Grade 8 and 10				
24 Sept		Public Holiday					
25 Sept		School Holiday					

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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
01 Sept - 04 Sept	History	NS	Geography
07 Sept - 25 Sept	Geography	History	NS
28 Sept - 16 Oct	NS	Geography	History

Junior School Distance and Onsite Learning Survey

Parents, your feedback is important. Please click on the [Link](#) and answer the survey. All feedback will be used to inform decisions taken in the coming term with regards to the delivery of the academic programme.

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

Dear Parents,

In the last week of the term, the Wellness Window Activity for Grade 0 – 4 focused on a review of past lessons completed with the girls. They were reminded that they are capable, important and can do a lot for themselves and those around them. You can continue to support this understanding at home by acknowledging the actions and capabilities you have observed in your daughter over the last 12 weeks. Some of the topics reviewed this week are:

- ◇ Believing in yourself
- ◇ The ability to do difficult things
- ◇ The capacity to learn and grow
- ◇ The importance of kindness
- ◇ How to be a positive influence in your environment

In our final Wellness Window for the term, the Grade 5 – 7 learners reflected on the focus points we covered in each activity, what they took from this term and what they are choosing to leave behind. They also provided suggestions for future Wellness Windows.

In summary, areas that were covered include:

- ◇ Identifying and managing feelings
- ◇ Coping skills
- ◇ Tips to aid online learning/learning from home
- ◇ Kindness and caring for others
- ◇ Positive self-talk
- ◇ Resilience
- ◇ Helping our communities

With the time away from school and online learning we encourage connecting once again as a family and as individuals. With the many changes that this year has brought we have all become busy and focused on the details of everyday life. We hope that the few weeks ahead can provide some time to pause, reflect on all that has happened and connect once more with those around us.

You are welcome to peruse any of the Junior School newsletters for ideas on how to extend the themes covered in the Wellness Window Activities this term at home. We wish you and your families a restful, restorative break.

ST MARY'S DSG OUTREACH

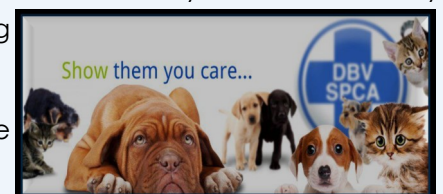
Junior School ~ Mrs van Wyk

Thank you for the rice and soap donations that we have received this past week. The rice is being donated to the Sunnyside Soup Kitchen run by the CAN of the Waterkloof Anglican Church and the tins will be donated to Deed-a-Day where they will be distributed to the homeless.

We also collected a total of 35 blankets that have already been distributed to the needy as well as a very welcome guitar. The young recipient of the guitar couldn't believe his blessing when he received it.

Thank you to those who have donated to the SPCA fund. We are sharing the link again if you would like to donate to this worthy cause: [SPCA donation](#)

Have a wonderful holiday and keep up the good work blessing people's lives.



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**ONE WOMAN
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
BUT TOGETHER
WE CAN ROCK THE WORLD**

**Happy Women's
Day
09 August 2020**

www.kindlyunspoken.com

**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



TERM 3 - REMINDERS

Whole School			
01 September	School re-opens for Term 3		
08 September	Schools Birthday		
24-25 September	Public holiday and School holiday		
29 September	Community Prayers		
15-22 October	Midterm		
27 November	Final Assemblies		
Junior School Dates		Senior School Dates	
22 October	Exam study list to girls	04 September	07h00 – 15h30 Grade 11 Leadership Development Course facilitated by Spirit of Adventure
6-13 November	Grade 5-7 Exams	05 September	08h00 Grade 9 Subject Choice Assessments (2nd opportunity)
27 November	JS Final Assembly	29 October	Grade 10 & 11 Exams
		05 November	Grade 8 & 9 Exams

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