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Dear St Mary’s DSG Community

“May you live in interesting times”

This phrase is attributed to an ancient Chinese curse, (even though that most credible of sources Wikipedia assures us that there is no evidence of this link at all.)

Events of the last days have had a ripple effect through the very fabric of our society and have stirred our hearts.

The timing of this crisis in our constitutional democracy at this point in Lent reminds us that through the pathway to death and the Cross came the resurrection and life. I have no doubt that “we the people of South Africa” shall emerge better and stronger.

We must continue to be a people of hope and indeed a school of hope.

Governance

We thought that at the end of this first term we would like to make sure parents know more about the governance of the school.

St Mary’s Diocesan School for Girls is an institution of the Anglican Diocese of Pretoria. The assets (property and buildings) of the school are held in trust (owned) by the Diocesan Trustees for the purposes of running a school. The school is founded and run according to a Constitution which is approved by the Synod of the Anglican Diocese.

The Governing Body of the school is constitutionally chaired by the Bishop of Pretoria, who at present delegates this responsibility to the Vice-Chair, Fay Mukaddam. Members of the Governing Body are determined by this constitution and are either there as members of constituent groupings of the school (Parents’ Association and Old Girls) or as elected Governors. Elections occur annually as the terms of office of members expire, and following nominations, the Governing Body elects replacement members ensuring that the requisite skills of the Governing Body are retained.

Members of the Governing Body at the meeting held on 4 April were photographed.

Bishop Allan and Ms Nadira Bayat were unable to attend.
- **Nadira Bayat** has over 20 years of diverse professional experience and academic qualifications in the field of international law, diplomacy, governance and international political economy. She has two daughters, Yasmina and Aisha Connolly, in Grades 7 and 5 respectively.

- **Dionne Smith** is the Chairlady of the Old Girls' Association, and reports to the Board on all matters relating to the Old Girls. She matriculated in 1985 from the School, and is a third-generation Old Girl, as her grandmother, mother and aunt all attended the School.

- **Mpumi Nchabeleng** has extensive knowledge in Business Administration. She is the representative of the Anglican Diocese of Pretoria on the Governing Body. She has a daughter in Grade 8.

- **Marc Serrurier** holds an MSc and MBA and has experience in environmental management, manufacturing operations and processes, capital project execution and commercial acquisitions. He supports the Lands and Buildings Committee. He has a daughter in Grade 2.

- **Di Gibbs** is a retired school teacher having taught at Kingsmead and Roedean amongst other schools. She is a representative of St Mary's DSG Old Girls' Association.

- **Mark Divall** is a medical doctor but practises in the field of Health Impact Assessments nationally and internationally. His daughter is in Grade 7. He assists in the area of Policy on the Governing Body.

- **Fay Mukaddam** is an advocate and practises as a commercial lawyer in the field of mergers and acquisitions. She is Managing Director of Terma Commercial Advisory Services and CEO of 4AX. She has been the President of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Institute of Directors and a member of the Black Lawyers Association. She is an Old Girl of St Mary's DSG, and her daughter attended the school. She is the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body.

- **Dion Shango** is the CEO of Price Waterhouse Coopers (Southern Africa). He serves on the Finance sub-committee. He has daughters in Grade 7 and 4.

- **Jude Miller** is a co-opted member of the Governing Body as an educational specialist. She was formerly the Headmistress of The Wykeham Collegiate and St Mary's School, Waverley. She is a St Mary's DSG Old Girl, taught here, and was vice-principal from 1982 – to 1989. Her daughter matriculated here in 1990.
- Sharon Smulders is a chartered accountant and holds a PhD in Tax. She is a professor at UNISA. She chairs the Finance sub-committee. Her daughters are in Grade 1 and 4.

- Ronny Gell is an attorney and a director at Alant, Gell and Martin Inc. His daughters are in Grade 8 and Grade 6. He is involved with the Policy sub-committee. He is a PA representative.

- Lizell Reinecke’s area of expertise is corporate governance, with a particular interest in risk management. She serves on the Governing Body as the Chairperson of the PA. Her daughters are in Grades 5 and 8.

- Mathebe Aphane is an architect and lectures at the University of Pretoria. Her daughter is in Grade 11. She chairs the Lands and Buildings sub-committee.

- Wallis Plummer is an educator and Health Researcher. She is a PA representative. Her daughter is in Grade 7.

Farewell to Mrs Renée Shields

After 17 years as Director of Boarding, and a life time at the school as a scholar and teacher, Mrs Shields has decided it is time to move on. We cannot begrudge her this move, but she will leave a huge gap and large shoes to be filled.

Renée has literally been on 24/7 call for her family of 200 boarders for all this time. Her cell phone is never off for parents and girls, and she has loved hundreds of girls as her own. The Boarding House carries her personal mark and will continue to do so for years to come.

To her colleagues Renée will be remembered as a source of inspiration, wisdom and energy. She has vast institutional memory and the knack of knowing where things need fixing before they need fixing. She is passionate about life-long learning and is never content without a challenge and the opportunity to grow.

We thank her and her lovely family for the sacrifices she has made for St Mary’s DSG. We will miss her, but know that she is not lost to us as a friend and passionate Old Girl.
Grade 0’s First Term

Grade 0 is a very busy place in our first term. We drew “selfies” of ourselves in our smart new uniforms. We were very excited to see baby chicks hatch out of their eggs. Colour days are a highlight on a Friday, when we come to school and do many fun activities that interrelate with our colours and baking: purple jelly; green grape kebabs; orange fruit salad to name a few. It has been a wonderful term full of learning!

By: Mrs Fiona Pienaar
Grade 0 Head
Grade 1’s Zoo Outing

The Grade 1 girls went to the zoo on Friday 31 March. They had lots of fun. We wrote about it and drew beautiful pictures!

By: Miss Karen Radley
Grade 1 Teacher

By: Isabella De Abreu 1R

By: Boipelo Mothei 1R

By: Kayleigh Stone 1R
Sepedi Evening (Grade 6 girls)

Lewatle Maroleni
The Sepedi evening was such fun. We ate traditional food like mala-mogodu, ledombolo and other foods. The highlight of my evening was when I saw Mahlatse Meta Lekota from the SABC1 show Generations and we got to take a picture with her. I wore my xiTsonga attire and I really enjoyed the music. The girls from Attridgeville danced a Sepedi dance.

Orearabile Monakedi
I loved the Sepedi Evening very much because Mahlatse from Generations was there and the music they played was nice. My friends and I danced on stage and the food was very tasty. We also watched the girls from Attridgeville perform.

Sesame
It was lots of fun. I enjoyed my dinner, I had stew and later ginger beer and I heard a story about a boy who learnt bad words in French instead of good ones, it was fun taking pictures with friends and exciting thing that happened is that I met an actress from generations, I was so happy. It was fun!

Abakwe
I was wearing a xibelani from the xiTsonga culture. My favourite performance was when the school from Attridgeville danced I wish we could perform like that. The food was exquisite and very tasty. I can’t believe Mahlatse was there, I had lots of fun. I would like to thank ‘Miss M’ and the high school for letting us come.

Ntsika Zamxaka (Isizulu)
The Sepedi Evening was inspirational, fun and entertaining. It taught us more about culture, the plays and dances showed us how to celebrate cultures.
Natural Science

Natural Science kicked off this year with a bang! Miss Makhene taught the Grade 6s about fungi, and they all grew their own mould over a period of two weeks. Needless to say that there was a fungi festival in the science lab!

The Grade 4s have been busy learning about matter and materials in chemical sciences. They have created informative leaflets on the iPads, as well as learning about specific skills such as Venn diagrams, and tabulating information.

Mr Calitz has taught the Grade 5s about living organisms, and their characteristics. The girls have started working on their science expo with theme of ‘Home Improvement’ this year. We are all very excited to see new home developments, and possibly learn a thing or two.

The Grade 7s have been learning about Carl Linnaeus, and how he developed the Binomial Nomenclature system of classifying organisms. They have enjoyed learning about scientific names of organisms and how they came to be. Along with this, the girls have also been working on their science expo with their theme of “Solutions to problems around us”. So far some of the experiments and ideas include water, energy, or building models. We still have a long way to go until the big day, but I am so incredibly impressed with the ideas and creativity!

By: Miss Jenna-Lee Kuhn
Subject Head Natural Science
Philosophy - Grade 6

In Philosophy the Grade 6 girls raised a number of thought-provoking questions to discuss, based on the Book: *Hope for the Flowers by Trina Paulus.*

These are a few of the type of questions raised.

- Why didn’t anyone think of becoming a butterfly? *Dara*
- Why did Stripe doubt himself? *Dara*
- Why did Stripe go on a pointless journey, following the crowd? *Kate*
- What was at the top of the pillar? *Inam*
- Why was Stripe not satisfied? *Isabella*
- Why didn’t the caterpillars work as a team? *Tahira*
- Why is everyone so busy that they cannot help anyone else? *Katlego*
- The other caterpillars only believed Stripe, after he turned into a butterfly, why was that? *Masind*

We looked carefully at a painting, “The Herd and I” and debated:

*When should you question what everybody else is doing?*
Reading a quote, from the well-known classic, “Alice in Wonderland”, questions arose about the importance of making decisions.

**Abby-Lee:**
I think that if you have to make a decision you have to think about the consequences.

Famous quotes were focused on, including: “Time waits for no man” and the girls had to define their idea of success.

**Kate:** Time is unforgiving for once you hesitate, that second cannot be retrieved and is wasted forever.

**Masindi:** Time slips away when you rush but if you spend your time wisely, you can have all the time in the world.

**Dara:** To me success means setting a goal and working 100% to get there.

**Caroline:** Success is not something you buy it’s something you earn.

**Inam:** Success doesn’t come easy, you have to work harder, you are the one who has to dream it, but still work to achieve it.

**By: Ms J.S. Van Staden**
Cape Town Tour 2017

Our feet were tapping with anticipation for the long-awaited trip to the mother city. As soon as we touched down in Cape Town we headed straight to Parliament where we learnt about South Africa’s political system. The District Six Museum was an enlightening experience, with the history of the area during Apartheid. The sweetest part of the day was enjoying quality pastry from Charley’s Bakery. On Saturday we visited Robben Island where we learnt about the history of South African prisoners during Apartheid. After getting off the boat we got the opportunity to shop and eat at Waterfront. The group ended off the day with a treat from waiters performing for us at the Stardust Dinner Theatre.

If you think that was a full itinerary, it is nothing compared to what the next day had in store for us - we started off our day with a scenic view from Paarl Rock looking over a part of Cape Town and were able to identify areas geographically. We then had a tour around the Solms-Delta wine farm where we learnt about certain plants and had a relaxing picnic. The group was then given the opportunity to visit the private house inside a prison compound where Nelson Mandela was held before being released. The day finally ended with a beautiful view of the sunset from Table Mountain. On our last day we visited the Holocaust Museum where we were educated about the effects the Nazis had on people. Just before heading to the airport we visited by the Heart Museum and learnt about the first heart transplant done by our very own Dr Christiaan Barnard…

So yes, the trip was beyond our expectations!

Written by: Blessings Khelo Grade 12
Some of life’s best lessons were learned when we were children: we were taught always to believe in ourselves, and to reach for the stars, and never mind those who tried to hold us back. We learned that it was right to respect everyone, even if they did not extend us the same courtesy. We were told that it was important to stand up for ourselves, as well as the things, and people we believed in - and we were consistently reminded that speaking the truth was paramount. We were taught to treasure things that had no material value, like trust, humility, honesty, sharing, friendships, hugs, support, and caring - just as we learned that actions spoke louder than words. We grew to be grateful for education and opportunity, even if we didn't understand where it would all fit in.

We learned endurance during difficult times, even when we had no clue what the outcome would be, and empathy for those who continued to struggle. We understood that it was okay to be who we were - and not criticize ourselves or others for mistakes, or being different. We learned to appreciate difference of opinion, and to respect each person's right to their own, just as we discovered those opinions did not imply factual evidence. We learned that seeking approval often yielded disappointment, and the best option was to be mindful of our own behaviour and actions. We found that there was a lot of unnecessary meanness and spitefulness, and the best response was silence. We learned to value each day, for there were no guarantees of tomorrow.

However, somewhere among learning these lessons during childhood and growing up we seem to forget some of these things, it is prudent to reframe our minds to visualize these lessons as ongoing and embed them in our daily living. I believe we need to revisit these childhood lessons that we learned from former educators, friends and family – and thus the Courtesy Tea was introduced, with the help and guidance of the dazzling Mrs Neser (Vice-Principal) the first tea was held on the 4 April 2017.

The Courtesy Tea aims to reinforce and acknowledge ladies who show acts of courtesy, not simply doing or saying nice things when it suits them but the quiet honest acts of consistency are acknowledged here. By acknowledging the chivalrous behaviours we enable and reassure the ladies that they are loved and worthy of love and respect in a society which tends to shatter self-confidence and esteem. At the tea we are able to reinforce the sisterhood and revisit the many childhood lessons. This is a way to thank and show gratitude to the ladies who assist in turning the school inside out and exposing the deeper depths of love and positivity that are rooted in our school values.
Kindness is contagious and to ignite a positive change within the school you have to start by lighting the first flames, and they will in turn share their flame of positivity and light more and more and soon we will unite to ignite a positive flame of courtesy and kindness. Kindness certainly has a domino effect and the Courtesy Tea is the root of igniting this flame.

Shana Ellappa
Deputy-Head Girl
Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl’s Report

The best way to describe the start of this term is like the launch of a cannonball. We all got comfortable with our routines that included the ladies dedicating endless time and effort to their individual and other commitments. We all settled in and just as we thought we had our routine under control we were shot out and forced to readjust. With the kick-off of the school buzz it had everyone excited and anxious for what lay ahead. This term was a melting-pot of every sphere of the school, with cultural events to sporting events as well as our Olympiads and Inter-high all taking place and before we knew it we were soaring in the heavy winds of this term. The term was filled with achievements, moments of gratitude and many valuable learning experiences, both academic and non-academic. Each girl found her wings to cope in amongst the hustle and bustle and a superficial sense of serenity and calm prevailed in the school. Uniting a sense of positivity was the aim for this year and with that came the year motto “unite to ignite”. We are gradually beginning to see a positive change within the school and we plan to continue with this, by constantly reminding ourselves of not only our respective purposes, but also our collective purpose as a school. We as a family of students have definitely risen up above the flames and were only able to do this with the support, unity and co-operation of everyone and the staff members.

As a lengthy, eventful term draws to an end, we look forward to a well-deserved break. We would like to wish everyone a safe peaceful holiday, filled with fun, laughter and most importantly … lots of sleep! May we take this time to relax and unwind, in preparation to return to school well rested, refreshed and energised for the exhilarating term ahead of us.

Dineo Maleho (Head Girl) and Shana Ellappa (Deputy Head Girl)
Squash

NJSA Squash Open 3-5 March 2017

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<td>Ashton Weir</td>
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Derby Day 11 March 2017

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High School League

Monday 13 March 2017

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Friday 24 March 2017

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Thursday 30 March 2017

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Ladies Senior League

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Junior Hockey

We have had a good start to our hockey season this year. Our teams have performed well and are working hard to improve their skills and match play. We have played matches against Laerskool Garsfontein, St Paulus and Cornwall Hill College.

Results:

vs Laerskool Garsfontein on 24 March:

U10A vs Laerskool Garsfontein U11B won 5-0
U11A drew 1-1
U11B won 1-0
U12A drew 0-0
U12B lost 2-1
U13A lost 0-1
U13B lost 0-4

vs St Paulus on 28 March:

U10A won 3-2
U10B won 1-0
U11A won 1-0
U12A won 12-0
U13A won 7-0
U13B lost 0-3

vs Cornwall Hill College on 31 March:

U11A drew 2-2
U12A won 6-0
U13A won 3-0
U13B won 2-1
Netball March 2017

Never giving up
Enthusiastic about the game
Trusting our teammates
Believing in ourselves
All about the passion
Leaving everything on court
Loving the sport

We had an early start to the season and it has been a year of change for St Mary’s DSG netball. There has been more activity on the courts and more is expected from all players. We have introduced a number of new coaches all of whom have represented either their provinces or the Proteas at various levels. The pre-season kicked off with a friendly game hosted at St Mary’s DSG against Oos-Moot followed by our annual derby day against Girls High. This was a perfect opportunity for the players to find their position and the teams to organise. We had the opportunity to enter some of the best players for Gauteng trials and congratulations to Phenyo Motshele and Carlé Le Roux who made it through to the second round of GGS trials.

We will be participating in 3 different pre-season festivals of which the U14 Roedean festival has already been a spectacular success. The team had a slow start but as the weekend progressed they made big improvements. Thank you to coach Ashleigh and coach Tania for your never-ending support and guidance throughout the festival that brought us to an overall 8th place. Early morning training and increasing excitement makes it clear that the St Andrew’s and the St Stithians festivals are getting closer. Good luck to all the players representing St Mary’s DSG and may this year be memorable. After the April holiday, netball will be in full force preparing for league as we kick off with a training clinic on 2 May. Thank you to every girl who attends practices with such positivity and even more to those who train when no one is watching. I am always watching…

“Pray, Play, Praise the Game”
Junior School Netball – March 2017

Junior School Netball kicked the 2017 season off with netball and mini clinics. The girls practised hard to get back in gear for netball. Our aims and goals for 2017 are to improve the quality of the netball we played against other schools and do really well in the D4 league we participate in.

U10 – 13 A and B teams took part for the first time in the Loreto Junior Netball festival. This festival was held on 25 March and was a great start to our season! Girls won some matches, and lost some. This festival was a wonderful opportunity for our girls to settle into their teams.

On 28 March our U10 - 13 played against Prestige College. The girls played all lovely netball and all our games were won. We are very proud.

The U12 and U13 girls had the opportunity to participate in Tshwane Netball trials. We are proud to announce that Zite Okonjo and Onkarabetse Koikanyang have been chosen for the Tshwane squad, and went through to further trials in Johannesburg. There they proved themselves and were included in the Gauteng (GSS) Netball squad. Well done to these two girls!
Senior Hockey

The 2017 league is in full swing, and St Mary’s DSG has been making waves in the Large Schools’ 2nd division.

Results thus far:

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<th>Sutherland High School</th>
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Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof in Stellenbosch is hosting an u16 festival from 2 to 5 April, at which the following girls will take part against some of South Africa’s top hockey schools:

1. Luyanda Mhlana  
2. Makhaba Honwana (captain)  
3. Lara Tanziani  
4. Samantha Theron  
5. Anathi Tyobeka  
6. Mitchel Walls  
7. Tauri Kerr  
8. Chanel Fernandes  
9. Clara Lubbe  
10. Jaimee Terblanche  
11. Marcelle Debeil  
12. Savanna Sommerville  
13. Reneiloe Moima (vice-captain)  
14. Victoria Braidwood  
15. Tia Muchenje  
16. Keira van Zyl  
17. Kelsea Munro  
18. Lebo Mateta

The following girls will also take part at the prestige St Mary’s Waverley festival to be held in Johannesburg from 5 to 9 April:

1. Neo Huma  
2. Dimpho Petse  
3. Caitlin Schaefer  
4. Angel Nkosi  
5. Erin Walls (captain)  
6. Hannah Newman  
7. Bernice Coetser  
8. Caitlyn Shaw  
9. Jessica Frohlich (vice-captain)  
10. Regina Mendes  
11. Jaime Marais  
12. Mila Ottavini  
13. Josélle Rodrigués  
14. Robin Mortimer  
15. Neha Pillay  
16. Reitumetse Nyakale

Our U14 A team will be attending the Hoërskool Garsfontein U15 Festival to be held at Woodhill College from 10 to 12 April.

We would like to wish our girls taking part in Northern Gauteng trials on 24/26 April the very best of luck. Remember – Hustle, Hit & Never Quit.

By: Christine Ferreira
Choosing to change

Each day we are faced with options and choices. Choose choices that make a difference.

Choose to start your day positively – What would life be like if you woke up on purpose? How can you expect to achieve excellence when the first decision you make each day is hitting the snooze button? Wake up earlier than you normally do to feed your mind with good books and fuel your body with a good breakfast – all before the rest of the world is deciding whether to get up or not.

Choose to learn from failure – No one likes to fail, lose, or mess up, but high performers use adversity to learn lessons and refuse to allow setbacks to disable them emotionally. One thing that is inevitable in life is this: you will fail. But the key is to fail forwards. You do this by identifying what you did well, what you can do better, and what you are going to do about it.

Choose your attitude – One of the most important decisions you make every day is the attitude you are going to have when you walk out the door. Don’t take your attitude for granted, or it will get the best of you.

Choose to not expect immediate success – success is made in a slow cooker, not a microwave. High-performing individuals understand that “overnight” success really comes after years of hard work. Be patient with yourself, keep your eye on the prize, and focus on the process. The results will take care of themselves.

Choose to get some sleep – It’s hard to perform well if you’re not sleeping well. I know it’s hard, but getting a good night’s rest is largely in your hands. For most, technology is the biggest thing stopping them from getting optimal sleep. Stop texting and put your phone down. If you sleep better, you will feel better.

Focus on what you can control – It’s easy to get caught up in who’s bigger, stronger, faster, smarter, or better looking than you. The key is to focus on what you can control. You will never be able to change other people, so instead of worrying about them, focus on yourself. Create the habits you need to be successful in the future. Strive to give your best effort. These you can control.

Choose to make every day count.

(Adapted from Mentally tough teens: Developing a winning mindset – Justin Su’a)

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