



FRIDAY FEEDBACK

10 September 2021

Dear members of the St Mary's DSG community

Welcome back to school and to the final term of the year. It is so heartening to see and smell that spring is here and summer is on its way. The campus is looking really beautiful, which creates a wonderful environment for work and play.

The first week has been busy, and the second week promises to be even more so. The term kicked off with staff development sessions for all staff members on Monday 6 September. On Tuesday 14 September, the Grade 8 parents have the opportunity to meet with their daughter's teachers – please book online before 17:00 on Monday 13 September.

On Thursday 16 September, the Grade 9 parents are invited to the important Subject Choice information session from 17:00 to 18:00, and from 18:00 to 19:00 they may make online bookings to meet their daughter's teachers.

Please would all Senior School parents complete and return the "Consent form for the use of images and videos" to ensure that we comply with the regulations of the POPIA Act.

MESSAGE FROM BOARDING

It is exciting to see the number of girls who have come back into boarding this term and we hope to close off the year together. We are about to say farewell to our matric students which means that our current Grade 11s step up to some of the leadership positions in Boarding in order to allow their seniors to focus on their final examinations.

To close off the year, there is a summer trip planned for the whole Boarding House in October to Sun City (The Valley of the Waves). We are hoping that the Covid-19 pandemic will not stand in our way for this enjoyable and much-anticipated outing. The last time we went to Sun City was in 2019 as it was not feasible to do so in 2020. The Grade 11 boarders are also busy planning a Boarder Matric Farewell, which is a long-held tradition at St Mary's DSG.





Our Catering Manager continues to consult with a registered dietitian in planning meals for each term. Sunday meals have changed to a proper brunch, a main lunch meal with Sunday dessert, and a light supper. The aim is to get the boarders to eat the prepared food over the weekend, to decrease fast foods on Sunday evenings, and for meals to feel like Sunday home food away from home. This change proved to be a positive one as the Matric students appreciated it when they had it for the first time last Sunday.

We look forward to a healthy, safe and enjoyable final term.

DEBUTANTES

Due to the challenges faced this year, it has been difficult for the Debutantes of 2021 to host meaningful events at the school and so we thought that participating in the SPAR virtual race as an entire grade would be a suitable end to this Debutantes programme. SPAR has undertaken to donate sanitary products to less fortunate communities, and I suspect that looking at some of the feedback, that this race will become an annual event for the Debutantes students. I am extremely proud of all the Debutantes and would like to thank the tutors and the students for participating whole-heartedly in this event. Many staff members also took part in the challenge, and it turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for team-building! Mr van Wyk



Bellator in the 'Spar Virtual Women's Race'

The girls as well as our tutor teacher participated with their family, friends or pets while social distancing. Everyone had a blast while staying safe and keeping fit. It was a peaceful but productive day for everyone and gave us all a chance to step out of our rooms and get some fresh air. - Liliitha Luthuli



Amani

10J really enjoyed participating in the Spar Virtual Challenge walk. It was a very exciting experience to do something healthy but also fun for a good cause. We are very grateful that we were able to participate. – Lesedi Khutoane



Excelsior

The pandemic and lockdown restrictions brought with it many challenges to the Debutantes main fund-raising events this year. Eager and excited the Grade 10s had to think "outside the box" in order to bring our community together to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We were thrilled to be able to participate in the SPAR Women's Virtual Race on the 4th of September. Something so small as just walking around our neighbourhoods allowed SPAR to generously donate numerous sanitary products to a charity of our choice on behalf of St Mary's DSG. This was a day filled with fun, family and friends and it was an enriching way to end off our Debs year. - Vanja Sampaio



Senzo

10P had a lot of fun (some tired moments too) on Saturday! All the students got out in the sun to walk or run on a lovely spring day to show their support for this year's Spar Virtual Challenge! By walking, 10P helped Spar in donating sanitary products for underprivileged girls in South Africa and to celebrate Women's Month. The class had an amazing time and looks forward to participating next year! - Josie Wessels



Tanora

The SPAR Virtual Race took place on the 4th of September and was very fun. All of the 10B students enjoyed the race because it was a new experience compared to the face-to-face races we have done in the past. It was exciting to be outside in the warmer spring weather. We can't wait to participate in the next SPAR Race and we are glad that we were also able to make a difference in the lives of the girls that will be receiving the sanitary products that will be donated. Lewatle Maroleni

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A hugely successful, hands-on IT training programme was presented to our Support Staff members from 30 August – 2 September 2021. Thank you to the following academic staff members who gave up their holiday time to plan a curriculum and train and assist staff to become fully computer literate:

Lizelle Bothma – Curriculum development and trainer
 Claire Blake – Trainer
 Marina Welman – IT Technician
 Thabang Sibeko – IT Technician
 Karen Matos – Hands-on assistant
 Hildegard Joseph – Hands-on assistant
 Melanie Hussein – Trainer and hands-on assistant
 Jacqui Brown – Hands-on assistant
 Felicia Paterson – Hands-on assistant
 Megan Ranger – Hands-on assistant
 Liz Vincent – Hands-on assistant
 Seago Maapola – Hands-on assistant



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The staff all received new Office 365 accounts. They were trained to log in effectively and access their emails via the webapp. Basic Microsoft Word skills were taught and practised and staff were given the opportunity to write a formal letter and email it to a recipient of choice. Lastly, basic email and internet etiquette, as well as how to browse the internet was practised.

Feedback from the staff has been overwhelmingly positive. They are all inspired by what they have been taught and dedicated to practise these skills. We are confident that this is the first step to a wonderful learning journey that they will all benefit from immensely.

ARTS AND CULTURE -

During our first assembly this term the following learners received awards for their Cultural achievements:

Zoë Terblanche – Filia award for Dance

Sithabile Mhlanga – Half colours for music.

Congratulations to these learners on their wonderful achievements!



SPORT - A shout out to all our sport achievers on the latest achievements!

Equestrian



1. Sarah Meyer : Junior Award
2. Jenna Mortimer: Half Colours

Basketball - Special Achievement Certificate for 2 consecutive years in the 1st team



1. Nomfundo Bhengu
2. Owethu Mbongwa
3. Martha Mumba
4. Hannah Palane
5. Michelle Makota
6. Thando Mothiba

Basketball – Junior Awards: Selected to represent the Under 15 Tshwane Regional Basketball Team at the Gauteng Championships

1. Chelsea Paterson
2. Unathi Mabudusha
3. Belinda Akromah
4. Destiny Kazhila
5. Omphile Nthoesane
6. Lesedi Moss

Basketball – Half Colours: Selected to represent the Under 16 Tshwane Regional Basketball Team at the Gauteng Championships

1. Katelyn Olifant

Basketball – Half Colours: Selected to represent the Under 19 Tshwane Regional Basketball Team at the Gauteng Championships

1. Thando Mothiba

Hockey - Special Achievement Certificate for 2 consecutive years in the 1st team

1. Bea Jacobs
2. Tshepi Mosia
3. Thando Mothiba



Hockey – Selected for the Northerns Blues Hockey Provincial High Performance Squad

1. Kaelo Mokgwetsi – u14
2. Phatutshedzo Netshandama – u14
3. Shonisani Rambau – u15
4. Tsholo Maaroganye – u15
5. Tumisang Thobejane – u15
6. Tshepiso Phaswana – u18

Netball – Half Colours: Selected to represent Tshwane Under 17 D4 Team

1. Onkarabetse Koikanyang

Netball – Full Colours Selected for Under 17 Gauteng Provincial Team

1. Onkarabetse Koikanyang

Tennis – Full Colours: 5 Consecutive years in the 1st team



1. Tsobotsi Lehloenya
2. Deniell Nel

Tennis - Full Colours: Northern Gauteng Inter – Provincial Under 19A Tennis Team

1. Tsobotsi Lehloenya

Squash – Full Colours: Selected for '19 Northern Gauteng Provincial Team

1. Ashton Weir

Squash – Sports Excellence: South African Schools Squash Top 10 ranking

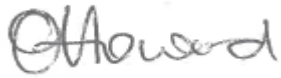
1. Ashton Weir

Volleyball - Special Achievement Certificate for 2 consecutive years in the 1st team

1. Neo Machete

Mrs Dina Kladis has recently been appointed as part of the National Coaches' Commission, and the National Referees' Commission.

With best wishes for a wonderful weekend and a great week ahead!



Odelle Howard
Head of School

		Grade 12 (Wantage Hall)	
		Ses 1	Ses 2
		7:45 - 11:00	11:45 - 15:00
10-Sep	Friday	Maths II 3hr	
11-Sep	Saturday		
		Ses 1	Ses 2
		8:45 - 11:00	
13-Sep	Monday	IEB LO CAT B 2hr	
		Ses 1	Ses 2
		09:45 - 11:30	12:45 - 15:00
14-Sep	Tuesday	IEB Life Sci PAT 1.5hr	Life Sc II 2hr
15-Sep	Wednesday	Acc I 2hr	Acc II 2hr
16-Sep	Thursday	FAL II 2.5hr	
17-Sep	Friday	History II 3hr	
18-Sep	Saturday		
20-Sep	Monday	Physics II 3hr Maths Lit II 3hr	
21-Sep	Tuesday	Eng II 3hr	
22-Sep	Wednesday	IEB MUSIC PRAC	Drama 3hr
23-Sep	Thursday	Cons St 3hr	French II 2hr
24-Sep	Friday	Public holiday	