



Message from Mrs Jennings

Dear Parents

**Did you know that we are an Eco-School?**

The Eco-Schools programme is an international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that was developed to support environmental learning in the classroom. The programme is active in 68 countries and 59 000 schools around the world and has been implemented in South Africa since 2003 by WESSA. The programme is aimed at creating awareness and action around environmental sustainability in schools and their surrounding communities as well as supporting Education for Sustainable Development in the national curriculum. Since 2003 more than 4500 schools across all nine provinces have participated in the programme reaching 1 036 000 learners and 41 400 teachers annually. The programme accredits schools that make a commitment to continuously improve their school's environmental performance.

As an Eco-School, we have both an obligation and a responsibility to teach the girls to make environmentally sustainable choices every day. We have noticed since we opened school, that there has been an increase in the number of girls who wear disposable masks to school daily. Choosing disposable masks is not environmentally sustainable. Firstly, it needs to be thrown away after a single use, which when we think about the volume of masks to be thrown away daily and the continued duration of the pandemic, it is not sustainable. Secondly many people forget to snap the ties when discarding their masks and much evidence has been reported of wildlife, particularly birds, being harmed by discarded masks. In addition to these concerns, these masks are also not surviving the length of a school day and we are having to supply girls with new masks during the day, because theirs have snapped. **Our request is that the girls all wear reusable face masks and do their part to protect our environment.** We are aware that some girls must wear the disposable masks for health reasons, but these should be the exception and not the norm.

The second environmental concern is the increase in packaging that is coming to school in lunchboxes. Our dustbins are filled after a break session with plastic wrappings and containers and there has been an increased amount of litter on the school playground. This too is not a sustainable choice. When choosing items for your daughter's lunch please consider the packaging. The ideal is for every girl to come to school with her lunch packed in reusable containers and her water or juice in a reusable bottle. Single use plastic is a convenient choice to make today, but its impact on the environment into the future is not going to be convenient. **Our request is that you limit single use plastics in your daughter's lunch box to reduce your family's carbon footprint.**



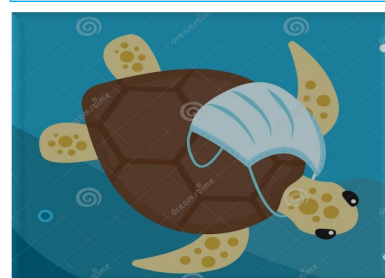
Communication sent out this week

- ◆ Communication from Tuckshop (Lunchhub)
- ◆ Grade 1-7 Swimming Allocations
- ◆ Junior School Swimming workshop
- ◆ Transformation and Diversity Survey
- ◆ Review of hair guidelines

D6 School Communicator



The School Communicator App is our primary channel of communication. Please check daily for communication from the School. This will ensure that you and your daughter(s) remain up to date on all school matters.



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

## Junior School News

### The afternoon programme and Aftercare

It has been wonderful to see such a positive response to the extramural programme offered at school since Monday. There has been much excitement and the response shows how important this aspect of school life is for the girls' overall well-being. **The decision has been taken to extend the summer season of sport to Friday, 19 March**, to give these sporting and cultural activities a full 6 weeks before we change to the second season.

The Aftercare team have requested that the following two reminders are shared with the community:

- ◇ Firstly, when the girls finish a sporting or cultural activity they need to pack up, sometimes change after the activity (like swimming) and they are, therefore, unable to get from their activity to the Junior School immediately as the session ends. Please allow 10-15min after the session finishes before collecting your daughter from school, especially if you are pressed for time, to allow the staff to get her back to the Junior School.
- ◇ Secondly, a reminder that Aftercare closes at 17:30. If you are going to be late to fetch your daughter, please let the school office know before 17:00 so that the Aftercare team knows what to expect and they can reassure your daughter and she does not get unnecessarily anxious. The girls do not like being the last to be fetched.

Dear Parents

As we approach the season of Lent, I am excited to share with you the "Lent knitting project and "mask it up" campaign. Each girl, parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent or friend is asked to knit or crochet blankets – the size doesn't matter; a knee blanket is as welcome as big blankets. With the Coronavirus pandemic being part of our "new normal", we have added masks as an item to be donated during Lent. The blankets and masks will be donated to school approved organisations.



What do you do if you cannot knit? This year we are asking families who cannot knit or crochet to buy a blanket and donate it as part of the lent drive. When you have completed your knitting/crochet work, put it in a bag, write the date on the bag and send it to school. As from Wednesday, 17 February, there will be big containers from the different houses on the lawn in front of the office. All blankets and masks must be in by 14 May 2021.

The Lent drive will be an Inter House competition. Girls, your house needs you to bring a blanket or a mask or even both items. Points towards the House trophy at the end of the year are up for grabs. The House which collects the most blankets and masks will receive 100 points!!! Grab a needle or sewing machine and get going... what are you waiting for?

Mrs N Zwane – Junior School Outreach Representative



### Tuckshop

Please find all information concerning the new Tuckshop operations, menus and pre-order system on the D6 Communicator, saved under 'Resources' 'Tuckshop'. **Girls may not visit the Tuckshop.** The Tuckshop can be contacted via WhatsApp or email: **072 141 1004 or [info@lesengkeng.co.za](mailto:info@lesengkeng.co.za)**

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



### Thursday, 25 February

Please be advised that Thursday, 25 February, has been reinstated as an academic day on the school calendar. This is a make-up day for the days missed at the start of the school year. School will close at 11:30 for the Foundation Phase and 12:00 for the Intersen Phase girls as we break for midterm on Thursday, 25 February.

### Playground Equipment

As of Monday, 15 February, the girls will be allowed to play on equipment in their allocated area. Girls need to sanitize their hands before and after playing on the equipment and maintain social distancing.

### Monday 22 February Staff Development Workshop

All the Junior School staff, including our Aftercare staff, will be involved in a staff development workshop on Monday, 22 February from 14:30 to 18:00. This is a compulsory Transformation and Diversity workshop that all staff must attend. We are, therefore, unable to accommodate any girls at school from 14:30. All extramural activities are cancelled for the afternoon. Please can everyone make the necessary arrangements to have their daughters fetched from school at 13:30 for the Foundation Phase and 14:00 for the Intersen Phase.

## CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

### Junior School

#### Pastoral Matters

Class (Gr 0-5) or Form Teacher (Gr 6&7)

#### Academic Matters

##### Intersen Phase (Grade 4-7)

Deputy of Academics

Mrs L Whitelaw

[whitelaw@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:whitelaw@stmarys.pta.school.za)

#### Academic Matters

##### Foundation Phase (Grade 0-3)

Head of Foundation Phase

Mrs T Molver

[tmolver@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:tmolver@stmarys.pta.school.za)

#### Reception

Mrs C Mndau

012 366 0501

[cmndau@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:cmndau@stmarys.pta.school.za)

#### Boarding

##### Director of Boarding

Mrs P Dlungwana

[pmbandlwa@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:pmbandlwa@stmarys.pta.school.za)

##### Operational Matters—Boarding Office

Ms Lorraine Ndwambi

[lndwambi@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:lndwambi@stmarys.pta.school.za)

#### Sport

Coach N Mothiba

[nkmothiba@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:nkmothiba@stmarys.pta.school.za)

##### PA to Junior School Principal

Mrs R Roelofse

012 366 0543

[rroelofse@stmarys.pta.school.za](mailto:rroelofse@stmarys.pta.school.za)

## 2021 CALENDAR

Term 1 (53 days)		
Start	Wednesday 13 January	
Close	Wednesday 31 March	
Half Term	CLOSE	<b>Thursday, 25 February (FP 11:30; IP 12:00)</b>
	RETURN	Tuesday 2 March
Public Holidays	Sunday 21 March (Human Rights Day)	
	Monday 22 March (Public Holiday)	
Term 2 (68 days)		
Start	Wednesday 28 April	
Close	Friday 6 August	
Half Term	CLOSE	Friday 11 June (normal time)
	RETURN	Monday 21 June
Term 3 (62 days)		
Start	Tuesday 7 September	
Close	Wednesday 1 December	
Half Term	CLOSE	Thursday 21 October (12h00)
	RETURN	Tuesday 26 October
Public Holidays	Friday 24 September (Heritage Day)	

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