

Message from Mrs Jennings

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to have your daughters back at school engaging and learning. The school is filled with the chatter that makes us all happy.

This week in assembly we addressed the "I" in our theme #LISTEN. "I" stands for INCLUDE. Making our school a place of welcome and belonging is an outcome we strive to achieve every day. To practice inclusion through active listening we set ourselves five challenges this week. I share these with you so that you can support these daily initiatives and assist us in reinforcing these values at home too.

Welcome Wednesday: On Wednesday, our focus was to show others that they are welcome and belong by greeting. Through greeting and responding we are saying "I see you and you are important."

Thoughtful Thursday: Listening is not always about hearing sounds. We also listen when we are mindful of how others are feeling around us. On Thoughtful Thursday we looked for opportunities to be kind and caring.

Friendship Friday: Today is a day to celebrate the gift we have in the friends that attend school with us every day. It is also an opportunity to extend a hand of friendship to someone who might be feeling lonely or excluded.

Mix It Up Monday: On Monday the girls are challenged to include other girls in their friendship circles or activities. To step out of their comfort zone and extend a hand of friendship to someone with whom they might not normally connect. Or as Mila in Grade 4K so cleverly shared in assembly, on Mix It Up Monday you should practice Welcome Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Friendship Friday.

Try It Tuesday: Our final challenge for the week, before we meet for assembly on Wednesday, is to try something new to show others that they are included. For example, you could pay someone a compliment, you could sit next to someone at break that you know needs a friend today, you could see how many smiles you could influence through your actions. The list is endless.

At assembly on Wednesday we look forward to the feedback from the girls on how their week has been and how they have grown by listening to include others.



Communication sent out this week

- ◆ Extramural Cultural and Sport choice forms
- ◆ Grade 1-3 Homework information
- ◆ Class WhatsApp group letters with consent slips

A reminder to please ensure that you have downloaded the D6 Communicator and that you please check it daily for communication from the School.

This will ensure that you and your daughter(s) remain up to date on all school matters.



Valentines'
Civvies Day
Friday,
12
February

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

New WhatsApp Privacy Policy Delayed

Instant messaging platform WhatsApp has delayed the update of its privacy policy until 15 May 2021. The new privacy policy was initially scheduled to take effect from 8 February 2021, but faced a strong backlash from users who objected to the policy allowing increased data sharing with other companies in the Facebook group. According to Whatsapp and Facebook, the policy update only includes new options for people to manage their business on WhatsApp and "does not expand our ability to share data with Facebook." However, this announcement does not seem to have allayed fears, as millions of users have migrated to alternative instant messaging platforms such as Telegram and Signal. Telegram founder Pavel Durov said his messaging app had seen a 500 per cent increase in new users amid dissatisfaction with the way WhatsApp handles people's data. In the space of just 72 hours, Telegram recorded 25 million new users – according to Durov "possibly the largest digital migration in human history".

SOURCE: ISASA Weekly Bulletin 1-7 February 2021

Class Reps 2021



The decision has been taken to continue to use WhatsApp for the purpose of communication between parents as WhatsApp remains the most widely used instant messaging platform in South Africa. Please ensure that you have returned the Class rep WhatsApp group reply slip to your daughter's class teacher so that your class rep can add you to the group. St Mary's DSG Junior School does not promote the use of WhatsApp by its students as they are all under the age of 16, which is the legal age to use the app.

Traffic congestion

REMINDER: Please drop and go to help us alleviate congestion.

Option 1: Arrive at the main gate on Duxbury and turn left up to the Junior School.

Option 2: Arrive at the main gate on Duxbury and turn right and park at the tennis courts and your daughter can walk up through the school to the Junior School.

Option 3: Arrive at the Lunnon Road entrance and park at the Tuckshop and your daughter can walk up through the school to the Junior School.

Option 4: Arrive at the Boundary Road entrance and park just outside the gate (or you can drive to the Tuckshop) and your daughter can walk up through the school to the Junior School.

The above gates can all be used as exit gates and an additional exit point is through the Junior School teacher's parking area onto Jan Shoba Street.

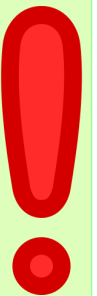
The traffic flow has been monitored this week and peak traffic is between 7:15 and 7:30. The traffic flows easily until this time. If you can avoid the last-minute rush to get to school, please plan to arrive before 7:15. It will assist us greatly in staggering the flow of traffic over the 45 minute window we have to get all the girls into school.

Board Games Request

We are currently accepting second hand, old fashioned, board games and game cards for our Board Games Club. Please send any games in good condition to our Junior School Reception office.

Staff Development Workshop – Monday 22 February

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.



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Reinstated Academic Day 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.

Sport and Cultural extramural programme

Thank you to all parents for completing the extramural forms sent out this week. The girls will start the programme on Monday. At school on Monday the girls will be allocated to their respective groups and coaches and teachers will ensure they get to their afternoon activities safely and enjoy their first sessions. Foundation Phase girls will have their first sport sessions. Please pack both the swimming and Phys Ed kit to ensure your daughter has what she needs to participate in the activity to which she will be allocated. **Parents may not enter extramural activity venues to wait for their daughters.**

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

lwhitelaw@stmarys.pta.school.za

Academic Matters

Foundation Phase (Grade 0-3)

Head of Foundation Phase

Mrs T Molver

tmolver@stmarys.pta.school.za

Reception

Mrs C Mndau

012 366 0501

cmndau@stmarys.pta.school.za

Boarding

Director of Boarding

Mrs P Dlungwana

pmbandlwa@stmarys.pta.school.za

Operational Matters—Boarding Office

Ms Lorraine Ndwambi

lndwambi@stmarys.pta.school.za

Sport

Coach N Mothiba

nkmothiba@stmarys.pta.school.za

PA to Junior School Principal

Mrs R Roelofse

012 366 0543

rroelofse@stmarys.pta.school.za

2021 CALENDAR

Term 1 (53 days)		
Start	Wednesday 13 January	
Close	Wednesday 31 March	
Half Term	CLOSE	Thursday, 25 February (FP 11:30; IP 12:00)
	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)	

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