St Mary's MATTERS

Volume 19 Issue 5

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Dear St Mary's DSG Community

From time to time the question of "international recognition" of our National Senior Certificate is raised. In a world of global opportunity parents and scholars are keen to be able to spread their wings, which is quite understandable.

The Curriculum Discussion: IEB vs Others

St Mary's DSG Pretoria at present prepares its learners for the National Senior Certificate examination as assessed by the Independent Examinations Board (the IEB).

The IEB is an agency recognised by Umalusi to operate independently, but is responsible to Umalusi for the provision of examinations which are then certified together with those learners who write state exams. The foundational curriculum the IEB is required to follow is the national CAPS guidelines, with the exception "that we do it our way."

Umalusi is the state organisation under whose responsibility independent education takes place.

The IEB is a proudly South African organisation which sets its context for assessment with the needs of the country in mind. The Intentional Educational beliefs of the IEB are:

To develop learners who are

- Critical users of information
- Ethical reasoners
- Problem solvers
- Creative and reflective thinkers
- Lifelong learners
- Respectful of diversity, especially in the South African context.

It is my belief that as a South African school, St Mary's DSG should be part of the national educational dialogue, and write a national examination.

In a global environment, what about international recognition?

The IEB NSC is benchmarked with UK Naric and because of this is recognised around the world by a vast number of international tertiary universities and organisations. This list is on our website under *"Senior School/IEB"*. The list of universities which we know IEB scholars have entered continues to grow. Two that are not on the list that I know have recently accepted girls from St Mary's DSG are York University and Portsmouth University.

To get into the American system all students need to write the SATs, which they can do from the NSC.

Oxford, Cambridge and the Imperial College require A levels and are the only universities which preclude our girls.

It is clear that the Cambridge Local Syndicate Exams equivalent offered at matric, the HGSCE or AS, offers no benefit to international recognition to the IEB NSC.

So what about A levels and exams assessed through Cambridge International?

The Grade 12 NSC (matric) is equivalent to the AS levels offered by Cambridge. A levels is a post matric year. Schools which offer A levels allow learners who choose to do so to move into AS after Grade 11 and then do a post matric year to complete their A levels. St John's College for example, offers a co-ed A level which quite a few of our girls do after writing matric at St Mary's DSG. The AP exams offered by the IEB (at present we offer AP Maths and AP English) are benchmarked at A level standard.

The Cambridge system requires a very different approach and training, is a different curriculum and cannot be offered simultaneously with the IEB curriculum. (Some schools offer it separately at additional cost.)

How well do our children have to do to get access to universities, here and abroad?

The chief answer to this question is that Schools are in the business of education primarily and not in the business of ensuring acceptance to universities and to the professions of choice. Those are secondary outcomes.

Nevertheless, these are the statistics for 2019:

UCT had 32000 applications for 4200 places. In Medicine 5600 applications for 220 places.

Wits had 70349 applications for 5000 places. In Medicine 8000 for 230 places.

UP had 37464 applications for 9600 places. In Medicine 5908 for 300 places.

These trends apply to all institutions both locally and internationally.

For Medical faculties in the UK there were 65393 applications for 6647 places.

American Ivy League universities globally showed the following:

Brown university accepted 8,6% of applications, Harvard 5,9% and Yale 6,3%

There is a gross excess of applicants world-wide.

So how well do I have to do?

7 distinctions may not be good enough for local Medicine acceptance. Learners who get straight A stars are being rejected in the UK. (The A star is earned at the highest level.)

In short, there is no guarantee anymore, anywhere.

The uncomfortable truth

The new world of work requires a non-linear approach to careers, and education needs to prepare our learners for this uncertainty by teaching skills and values required in the 4IR environment. In particular, the soft skills are needed which will outlast any technical skill and rote learning.

Learners and in particular their parents will need to embrace the world of uncertainty. It is a cliché that "we are preparing learners for jobs that don't exist…using technologies not yet invented, in order to solve problems we do not know are problems yet."

Rather than focusing on educating to make a living, we should be focusing on educating for life; teaching that the world needs personal generosity rather than personal wealth; educating for Africa and the world.

I am convinced we do just that.

The Revd Canon A Paterson
Head of School

Grade 0s celebrating 100 days of school

Grade 2

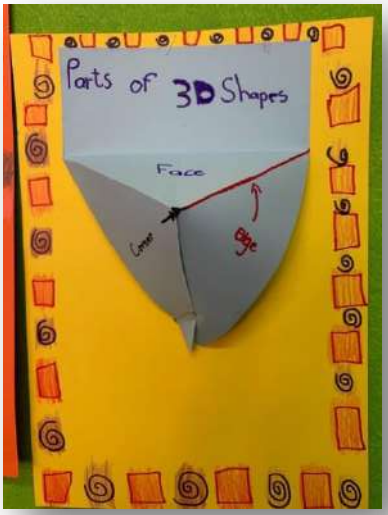
In Grade 2, the girls learnt about 3D shapes. Furthermore, they learnt about the properties of 3D shapes which are the faces, corners and edges. The girls then turned a flat piece of paper into a 3D shape and named the properties on the piece of paper.

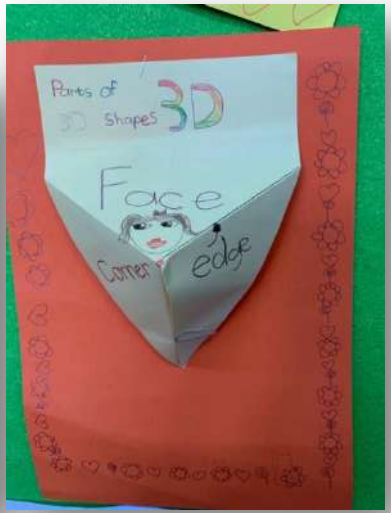
The girls also picked an African country and had to do research on that country. They then had to compare their African country to South Africa. In their comparison booklet, the girls were also asked why they loved South Africa.

Here are a few of their reasons why:

- *"I love South Africa because of the food. I love the big five and the animals."*
- *"I love South Africa because I was born in South Africa and we are the only country that has milktart."*
- *"I love South Africa because South Africa is the best because we love each other."*
- *"I love South Africa because it is fun, beautiful and colourful."*
- *"I love South Africa because it's a wonderful place to live in and everyone is kind and caring and it is beautiful."*
- *"I love South Africa because it is nice to have friends and family that live here."*

Miss Jaimé-Lee Wentzel
Junior School Teacher





Grade 3 Science Day

The Grade 3 girls will soon be participating in their first Science Expo. To help them prepare, we had a fun Science Day. The girls went to each Grade 3 teacher to experience interesting experiments and to learn how to follow the Scientific Process.

They experimented with inflating a balloon using baking soda and vinegar. It was great fun to see the reaction and the balloon inflating. Vinegar and baking soda were used to put out a candle - an amazing reaction that creates carbon dioxide. The messiest experiment was to create a non-Newtonian liquid, otherwise known as an 'oobleck'. The amazement on their faces, when the corn-starch and water mixture acted like a solid and a liquid at the same time, was priceless.

The girls can now confidently use the Scientific Process to create their own project for the Science Expo. Our theme this year is: "Keep calm, I'm saving the planet!" The teachers are looking forward to seeing the great ideas that our #Smartgirls come up with.

Mrs A. McVittie
Grade 3 Teacher

Grade 4 Self-Acceptance and Belonging

"A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. Belonging starts with self-acceptance. Your level of belonging, in fact, can never be greater than your level of self-acceptance, because believing that you're enough is what gives you the courage to be authentic, vulnerable and imperfect" - Brene Brown

The Grade 4 girls have spent time reflecting on their self-acceptance and belonging and have written beautiful poems on being a St Mary's DSG girl and belonging as an exercise to celebrate our 140th year. Our girls are courageous, authentic, vulnerable and imperfect, and we are unapologetically proud of them.

Being a St Mary's DSG Girl

I recently came across a quote that sparked the idea for this article, the quote read as follows:

"Home is ultimately not about a place to live but about the people with whom you are most fully alive. Home is about love, relationship, community and belonging…" Erwin McManus

When I think about the St Mary's DSG community and what it means for me to belong here; I immediately reflected on my somewhat 'short' time as a member of this community, and without making this article sound like a goodbye note, I realized that I have had to learn some very good lessons about belonging, love and relationships with all the members that make up this community . The growth that I have undergone both personally and professionally at St Mary's DSG make this community HOME for me!

I challenged some of my learners with the same question I asked myself; "What does it mean to be a St Mary's DSG girl?"- and I was delighted to see that some of the answers I received back mirrored some of mine.

Being a St Mary's DSG girl means…

"having the responsibility to take pride in my school and my friends"
Isabella Erken

"a lot to me, because I feel like I belong at St Mary's DSG and I always feel happy at school"
Gisela Langa

"more commitment, responsibility, hard work and confidence"
Uwive Bubu

"that I feel a part of a community that makes me feel at home"
Naledi Kganyang Malahlela

"that I am privileged and loved. It has taught me so much about friendship, commitment and believing in myself"
Francesca Paoletich

"that I have learnt to take more responsibility for my actions and to respect my elders as well as having more self-confidence"
Kelebogile Chiloane

"I am welcomed and loved in the St Mary's DSG family"
Lethukuthula Mtshali

"you can be anything you want to be,and you will always be pushed to do your best as well as having self-confidence and school pride"
Letago Phalane

"I have a sense of community and I feel like I belong even when times get tough. I know I can come to school and my friends will bring a smile to my face"
Renee Oloo

"that when you walk into the gate you know you belong to that environment and you are loved!"
Gemma Barnett

"that I have learnt to be respectful, responsible, commited, co-operative, self-confident, tolerant and to have school pride!"
Prital Joshi

"having people who can guide and support you whenever you don't feel confident or feel sad"
Nomvula Mohale

"being in a kind environment filled with caring people. It also means that you don't feel alone"
Bobakhe Mbekeni

"you are not alone and even though we all come from different backgrounds, we are all the same inside. You also feel loved no matter what you are going through"
Phatutshedzo Netshandama

"being an ambassador of the school and setting a good example wherever you go!"
Yamika Mooloo

"that people will respect and accept you, as you are, because you are unique and special"
Maia Roux

Miss Idah Makhafola
Junior School Teacher

Grade 5 News

Our Grade 5 girls have had a wonderful year so far, with many highlights. These include their academics, teachers, PBL days, outings and exams. Below are highlights from our Grade 5 girls and what they enjoy about learning and being at St Mary's DSG.

What I enjoy about Grade 5 is mostly working with Ipads and learning how to deal with conflict in CEC. **Rea Khutwane**	I love Maths and my teacher. I am so so excited for Camp. I love going from class to class and I really love timetables. And I am doing well! **Keabetswe Manyane**	I love Grade 5 because my friends and teachers are kind to me. I love the challenges we get in Maths. **Jamila Haeri Mazanderani**
Some of the most fun things in Grade 5 were the PBL EdTech day because we got to use lots of new tools. We also did a really fun Art project. I also liked the Big Walk and bringing my Mom to School. I also like all my teachers and am excited to go on Camp. **Brooke Stanley**	What I love about Grade 5 so far was our trip to Sci-Enza. I loved going into the mirror maze. **Malindi Mulaudzi**	I love Grade 5 because of the Big Walk with my Mom and being with my friends on that day. **Amani Carrim**

I enjoyed the Big Walk and when we wore the same clothes as our parents. I can't wait to go on camp with my friend and teachers. **Tshiamo Sekati**	I enjoy going outside and doing fun activities in music and drama. Our group works together while having fun. **Olisa Esipisu**	The thing that I have enjoyed about Grade 5 was going to Sci-Enza and learning more about Science. **Lelegaisang Maimane**
I love Grade 5 because in Summer and Spring we get to swim in PE. **Rea Masoga**	I love all my new friends that I have made and the PBL days. I can't wait for Camp! **Rudzani Tshitake**	*What is enjoy in Grade 5 is finding out new things and making new friends.* ***Phoebe van der Schyff***

What I enjoy in Grade 5 is using Ipads and learning new things. **Tshwetso Tabane**	I enjoyed the Big Walk when I got to dress like my Mom and I am very excited for the up-coming camp. I also enjoy sports and EdTech. **Lwethu Mdluli**	I love Grade 5 because we wrote our first exam and I did well! **Karli Ligthelm**
I enjoyed going to Sci-Enza with my class, learning new things and going into the Mirror Maze. I also enjoyed PBL day with my Mom and I got to dress the same as her. **Thandi Sibanda**	I love Grade 5 because my teacher is very funny, kind and makes me enjoy Grade 5. **Kitso Mosaka**	I enjoyed going to Sci-Enza for the outing and loved learning new things. **Sethu Nkosi**

My Grade 5 year is my first year at St Mary's DSG. I have many friends and an amazing teacher. I am looking forward to camp. **Oarabile Sindane**	I enjoyed going to Sci-Enza because we did fun activities and learned new things. **Nqobile Lukhozi**	*I am one of the happiest girls at DSG because I have amazing teachers. I have made lots of new friends and I enjoy being with them.* ***Une Dayile***
I love Grade 5 so far. I enjoyed the Big Walk and PBL day with my mom the most! **Dintle Koka**	I love Grade 5 because I have good friends and I loved the 'Bring a Parent to School' day. There are always new things I can learn and see. **Tapiwa Gatsi**	I have love Grade 5 so far because I enjoyed the big walk. I enjoy PE because we get to play games like Dodge Ball. **Oyama Mjobi**

Grahamstown 2019 Grade 7

In the very wise words of Brian Tracy; *"The greatest joys in life are happy memories. Your job is to create as many of them as possible."*

And this *once-in-a-lifetime* tour was overflowing with opportunities for the girls and teachers alike to make all sorts of memories that would stick with them forever. The first distinct memory for many was the 04:30am arrival time at OR Tambo International Airport, where for some girls, this would be the very first flight that they had ever taken in their life. With both great excitement and trepidation, the St Mary's DSG team of about 80 took to the sky for the wildest ride.

Once we had landed, we continued with our jam-packed schedule that included travelling to the small town of Port Elizabeth so that the girls could embark on a historical tour. I am not too sure what the girls were more excited about - the fact that their exams were finally done, that they could now feel the ground again, the tour or that they were away from home. I think the last option was probably the most likely ☺. Either way, songs, chatter and laughter were the order of the day as they made their way around the town by foot, learning about some of our country's rich history.

We then headed off to where we would stay*: Hoerskool PJ Olivier, Grahamstown*. These next couple of days consisted of travelling in cars with loud music and singalongs, shows, markets, donating blankets to charity and museum exploration. Of course, there were also the experiences of some great food, cold showers for some who had not discovered where the hot showers were, hot chocolate, late night chats, giggles and whispering until the early hours of the morning. Followed by the obvious, but quickly fleeting grumpiness that came along with waking up the next day.

On the last night, the girls were given time to reflect on and answer the following questions:

1. **Who does the world think that I am?**
2. **Who am I really?**

They did not have to share their answers with anyone and one could feel that the atmosphere had shifted. They really took the time to reflect on these two questions and answered them as honestly as they could. All the educators there would have described this moment and now memory, as an indescribable one. The privilege of seeing young girls being honest with themselves and vulnerable with others created compassion and revealed their strength and courage. This will lead them on a steady path of becoming fearless, compassionate, brave, kind and independent women who can really change this world for the better in the future. And I think that we need to take a page out of the Grade 7s book and ask ourselves, as adults, the same two questions.

Remember, "No one ever made a difference by being anyone else"; what a wonderful thing.

Mrs Shannon Venter
Junior School Teacher

Working with Words

Building vocabulary in FAL should not happen in isolation. It is not how many new words you have written down but what you are doing with those words that matter. Use your words as a tool to create meaning. Here are some ideas on how to learn new vocabulary in a meaningful way:

- When learning a new word, find out the synonym and antonym of the word.
- Write a short paragraph or rhyme using the new vocabulary of the week.
- Demonstrate the word by using gestures.
- Learn as many new descriptive words as you can.
- Repeat – repeat – repeat: use your new words often.
- Explain the meaning of the word to someone else.
- Draw a picture showing the meaning of your new word.

Consult the following websites for help with the Afrikaans language:

- www.storiewerf.co.za
- www.beterafrikaans.co.za
- www.afrikaans.com

Mrs Karin Snyman
Afrikaans Teacher

Junior School Culture

On Sunday 28 July our Junior School Marimba band performed at the International Marimba and Steelpan Festival at St Dominic's School for Girls.

Well done, girls. You were amazing!

Mrs Janenne van der Merwe

SEPEDI (FAL)

"When we read we are able to travel to many places, meet many people and understand the world." By Nelson Mandela

The Sepedi girls have been exposed to a variety of themes in Term 1 and 2. Our new Grade 2s learned the basic greetings, counting from 1 to 10, the days of the week, family members, body parts and using verbs to construct basic sentences which has been pleasing to observe.

The Grade 6 and 7 girls were invited to perform at the 'International Storytelling Festival' at Freedom Park and I must say their performance was outstanding. I am very proud of them.

The Grade 5 girls created a 3D school; a lot of fun was had by the girls and they learnt new vocabulary about the classroom. The end result was truly pleasing. I look forward to an exciting Term 3.

Ms. NE Masengi
Sepedi (Subject Head)

Reflection by the Grade 6 Girls:

Sepedi has been a nice experience this term. I have learned a lot of new things and my understanding of the language structure has improved.

Letago Phalane 6S

This year thus far Sepedi has been an eventful and progressing subject. We have been encouraged to learn to expand our vocabulary when structuring our sentences and not being afraid to face any challenges ahead of us. I have made a lot of improvement when writing.

Karibu Kechane 6B

This year Sepedi has been fun. We learnt a lot of new things for example Mahlalošetšagotee (synonyms) and Malotodi (antonyms). I have also learnt about the language and the culture.

Upiwa Chiloane 6K

Sepedi has been a nice experience this term. I have learned a lot of new things and my understanding of the language structure has improved.

Letago Phalane 6S

SEPEDI (FAL)

Photographs of the Paired Reading Grade 2s & Grade 7s

St David House

For me, being a St David leader means committing to my duties and helping the younger girls in our house.It has also meant that we, as Grade 7s, need to try and lead our teams to victory and also have fun with the girls in the younger grades. Being a leader has been a great experience and it has taught me to be responsible and that it is “ok” to make mistakes because we learn from them.
I am so proud to be in St David House and having had the opportunity to lead such a great team!
- Olerato Moatshe

I love being a St David leader, helping the younger girls with cheering, coming up with new cheers and helping St David aim for winning all the trophies. It means a lot to be a leader because it gives me an opportunity to grow as a person, guide the younger girls and help the team improve with every event that we take part in. It has been a pleasure leading the house so far this year.
- Ndzalama Mashele

So far, St David has completed Inter-House Soccer, Netball and Hockey events while growing as young sports women and having loads of fun. I used my leadership skills by attending and being punctual for all house events, supporting and attending the younger girls’ sporting events, being one of the loudest cheerers on the team and always creating an awesome vibe for all the girls to enjoy themselves! Being a leader has been so much fun and exactly what I expected it to be.
- Amahle Bhengu

St George House Leadership Report

The fellow St George girls and I were off to an early Saturday morning and a busy three hours awaited us. This year as a fund raiser the George girls sold ice-lollies to the DSG girls, visiting schools and to the parents at the U7-9 Hockey and Netball festival.

As most "businesses" do, ours started out very slowly with very few customers but as the day progressed the ice-lollies rapidly began to sell out, and "run and fetch more or just look for more girls in red tutus" became common cries amongst our "sales reps".

We had tons of fun running up and down hills selling our "product" to everyone but most importantly convincing Father Timothy to buy ice-lollies (let's just say that was a mission and a half!)

We had hoped to at least break even, but we didn't just do that we completely sold out before our time was even up! Somehow, I think our St George leaders could probably all become world class business woman and we could even start our own company!

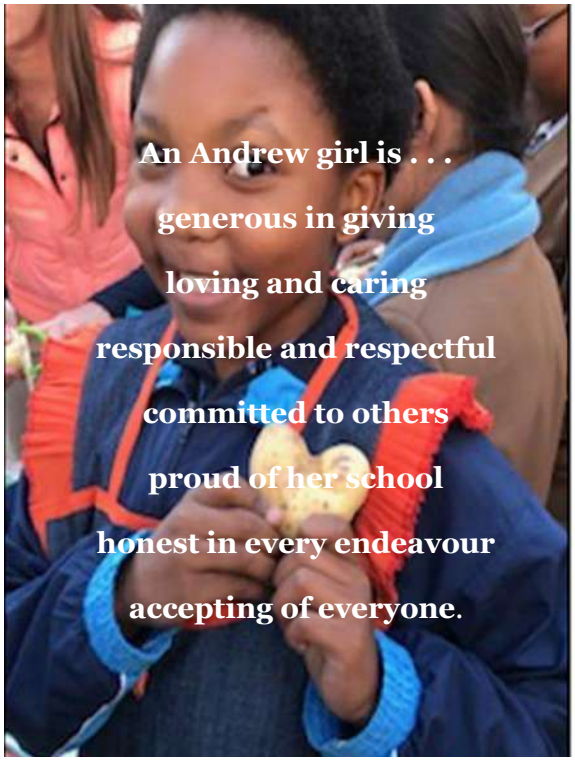
All the money went to a very good cause, Leomogetswe Safety Home. We were delighted that all our hard work paid off and at the end of the day we had contributed to making a difference for someone in need.

"It was an unforgettable experience and I am so glad to have shared it with my St George sister"
Emma

"I loved being a St George leader because we have so much spirit among our house. I have enjoyed decorating the stands to make a festive atmosphere when we compete in our interhouse events"
Ntsiki

"St George has been an incredible experience so far. I have loved being a St George leader. I have enjoyed making posters with my friends and cheering at Inter-house events. I am excited for sports day and I really hope we get the spirit cup"
Natalie

The Heart of an Andrew Girl



Mandela Day is a day where Andrew girls get to show their true hearts. Donating and chopping veggies leads to fellowship and laughs, through caring for others and generosity. Giving comes from the heart and Andrew girls can be proud of what they epitomise.

Senior School Cultural Day

I woke up on 11 June knowing it would be a brilliant day. The day turned out to be more than that. Cultural Day is a day for girls to express their creativity. I like to think of it as the equivalent to a championship sports match.

The day started off with various activities. Each girl could pick 3 activities to do in the morning which would allow them to express their creativity. There were a total of 12 activities, which included chalk art, cupcake decorating and rap battle. One of the greatest outcomes of Cultural Day is that ladies get to witness each other's creativity. Often girls are so wrapped up in sports, academics and other school activities they forget about their creativity. My goal for this day was to encourage girls to enjoy the day and realise how fun and exciting the arts can be. I saw girls drawing lions and flowers at chalk art, doing the coolest dance moves at the workshops and making each other look scary at the make-up workshop. There are future rappers, dancers and artists in our midst, and I believe that Cultural Day was a great way for them to display their talents.

We ended off with a brilliant showcase of Inter-House events with each house winning one category. The ladies performed vocals based on musicals such as Annie, The Lion King and Dream Girls. Inter-House Instrumental took us on a trip down to New Orleans where Mardi Gras was born. Inter-House Dance was the highlight of the show, with African Safari being the theme. The amount of hard work and talent needed to pull off those performances is unbelievable. I truly commend every single girl that took part in the Inter-House competition.

Cultural Day has always been one of my favourite days of the year. It is a day where everyone is only expected to try their best to be creative and enjoy themselves.

Thank you to the Cultural Portfolio group and Mrs Purchase for an unforgettable Cultural Day in 2019.

Qiulin Li
Grade 12

Pit Productions 2019

The last thing the Grade 11 and Matric Afrikaans students were expecting, seated in the hall for the Pit Produksie, was to be near hysterics with laughter. It quickly became apparent that the company has been successful for nearly twenty years because of their inherent ability to balance high school students' humour with limited time, space and source material, as they re-enacted our prescribed literature, complete with props and wigs, to the delight of the girls, in a way that was efficient, understandable and absolutely hilarious, embodying the characters perfectly, although it was extremely (entertainingly) over-the-top. The trio then proceeded to act out a few of the poems that were studied in class, leaving us close to tears and in absolute stitches. ("Iemand kry die scuba gear, want dìt was DIEP!") Every single student enjoyed the performance immensely and the Grade 11s are already looking forward to next year's visit.

Bella Pretorius
Grade 11

Celebrating Iconic South African Women

"Research shows that girls are twice as depressed, anxious and stressed out as boys. 7 out of 10 girls feel that they are not enough or don't measure up in some way, no matter how many achievements they rack up. In the so-called age of girl power, girls are still trying to fit a perfect mould of pleasing others and looking sexy. They are striving for unattainable perfection and avoiding risks." – Raising a Powerful Girl

Children and teens in today's world are bombarded by information of all kinds, whether it stems from television, YouTube or the many apps that can be found on their cell phones. Numerous examples of inadequate role models that we might not select for our children – those who promote unwholesome lifestyles, use hate speech or display a lack of moral fibre – are easily accessible due to society's glorification of anything with the so-called 'entertainment factor.'

Research tells us that role models play a significant role in teenagers' identity formation. Such individuals model attitudes, values, and behaviour that young people may incorporate into their own attitudes, values and behaviour. This definition indicates the importance of providing positive, inspiring role models for young girls and teens. Additionally, research suggests a link between positive role models and resilience and further identifies role models as a protective factor against psychosocial risks, as well as anxiety, aggression and depression. Benefits of the introduction of positive role models also include a greater degree of psychological wellbeing, better academic outcomes, higher self-esteem and a stronger sense of ethnic identity.

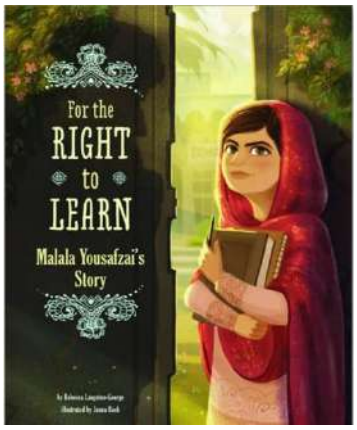
In the run up to Women's Day 2019 on August 9th, it seems fitting to identify a diverse list of women past and present who represent strong role models for our girl children and teens to aspire to. Although this is not an exhaustive list by any means, nor a list of 'perfect' women who led spotless lives, the following South African women are some of those worthy of including in the narratives within our families. Take some time to research them with your daughters and learn both about our country's rich heritage and about worthy women to point our girls towards.

- Miriam Tlali: She was the first black South African woman to write a book and is heralded as one of the most important South African writers to emerge.
- Zanele Muholi: One of the most prominent photographers alive today, her work explores themes such as sexuality, gender and race.

- Helen Suzman: She fought for the rights of political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, and rallied against gender inequality.
- Lilian Ngoyi: She was referred to as the Mother of The Black Resistance and was the first woman to be elected to the executive committee of the African National Congress (ANC), also helping to form the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW).
- Thabiso Mahlape: She is the founder of Blackbird Books, a publishing house for black writers that caters for their respective narratives. She was named one of Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans for 2017.
- Sophia Williams-De Bruyn: She has been a cornerstone in South African politics since she led the Women's March in 1956. She was also at the forefront of pushing rights for the coloured community, appointed as leader of the Coloured People's Congress.
- Rahima Moosa: She spearheaded the Women's March and was an active unionist who was part of the ANC and the Transvaal Indian Congress.
- Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng: She is an academic inspiration to all women as the first black South African to obtain a PhD in mathematics education.
- Caster Semenya: Our star athlete, she has been making headlines with her unprecedented skill on the track, winning numerous medals over the years.
- Penelope Heyns: As South Africa was re-emerging onto the international sporting stage in the early 90s, Penelope Heyns took part in the Summer Olympics of 1992, the Commonwealth Games of 1994, and countless other games, proudly representing the country as a superb athlete.

Books for 9-13-year olds that shine the spotlight on remarkable girls and young women, courtesy of amightygirl.com (other age ranges available on the website) and supplemented by various South African sources:

- Miracle Girl: Life Stories from a Xhosa Girl - Sivosethu Ndubela & Tony Ndubela
- The Day Gogo Went to Vote – Elinor Batezat Sisulu
- Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story – Beverley Naidoo
- Surfing Sally – Mary Duncan
- For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story - Rebecca Langston-George
- Ronia, The Robber's Daughter – Astrid Undgren
- I Am Enough – Grace Byers
- Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice – Phillip Hoose
- The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making – Catherynne Valente
- Through My Eyes – Ruby Bridges
- Fire from the Rock – Sharon Draper
- The Mighty Miss Malone – Christopher Curtis
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon – Grace Lin
- The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
- Basketball Belles: How Two Teams and One Scrappy Player Put Women's Hoops on the Map – Sue Macy
- The Hope Chest – Karen Schwabach
- Moon over Manifest – Clare Vanderpool



Miss Lesley King
Educational Psychologist

Netball

This article should have been included in the last edition of 'St Mary's Matters'

It gives me great pleasure in providing you with an overview of the St Marys DSG 2019 netball season thus far.

The league was extremely short this year and was interrupted by the school holiday breaking the momentum in the beginning of the season. However, even with these challenges we believed that we could fly, and the results speak for themselves.

St Mary's DSG netball embraced the fact that we moved up a league as tremendous growth is visible in the level of play of the girls. We started preparing for the season in the first term already by having more trials than the previous years to enable the players to prove themselves over a longer period of time. This also aided in the placing of the coaches ensuring the right coach was paired with the right team. The level of commitment and dedication from the girls largely depends on the coaches involvement and I believe we are getting closer to ensuring a perfect match. Therefore employing the correct coaches is of vital importance.

With the exception of the 1st team the rest of the teams played two matches before the school holiday. The second term started with a bang and within a total of seven weeks the league and multiple festivals were completed.

We started with the Waterkloof Festival where the U15 and U16 teams participated and the growth in both teams was visible after the first couple of matches. There is a lot of excitement when it comes to the U15s and the build-up to next year's U16 team looks very positive.

The U14A team also participated in the Roedean Festival. The team came 5th overall, this being the best result since St Mary's DSG started participating in the tournament.

St Mary's DSG hosted a friendly match against Peacanwood on Saturday 18 May where 7 of our teams participated and all of the teams won on the day.

The 1st team will be playing in the ISSF tournament hosted by St Anne's, Pietermaritzburg from 7 to 8 June, we are looking forward to this tournament and trust the we will be building great memories for our Grade 12 ladies.

As mentioned earlier the league was very short, but very successful; 2 teams were league winners, 3 teams placed 2nd, 2 teams placed 3rd, 2 teams finished 4th and 1 team finished 5th in their league.

In total 4 league matches were played and we are expecting two play-off matches involving the U14s and U15s.

Considering we played in a higher league, the season can be seen as quite successful and the results can be summarised as follows thus far:

St Mary's DSG	Southdown College	Die Wilgers Hoërskool	The Glen High School	Willowridge High School	League Winners
U14 A	Won	Won	Won	Won	Winners
U14 B	Lost	Won	Won	Won	2nd
U15 A	Won	Lost	Won	Lost	2nd
U15 B	Won	Won	Won	Won	Winners
U16 A	Lost	Lost	Won	Won	3rd
U16 B	Lost	Lost	Won	Won	4th
U17 A	Lost	Lost	Won	Lost	4th
U17 B	Lost (friendly)	Won	Won	Won	2nd
U19 A	Lost	Lost	Lost	Won	5th
U19 B	Lost	Won	Won	Won	3rd

After all the results have been tallied we will be formally notified of the teams participating in the Tshwane North D3 play-offs on the 29th and 30th of May at Montana High School. Formal feedback with the results will be provided in the next report.

St Mary's DSG will be hosting a fun filled day of Inter-House Netball on Tuesday the 18th of June to conclude the regular netball 2019 season.

We would like to thank every coach, official and especially the girls who attended practices and proudly represented St Mary's DSG in the league. Your passion for the game is what makes you all so remarkable.

Mrs Dawnita Benadie
Netball Organiser

Sports Highlights Trinity Term

The Sports Department would like to sincerely thank each girl, each parent and each coach for what proved to be a successful Trinity Sport term! We proudly share some of the highlights of this past season:

Junior Netball

- U13A team finished second in the Diamond League for the second consecutive time
- Two of our girls were chosen for the District teams
    - Vhuhwavho Nebotalo (U12)
    - Masiza Masiza (U13)
- Faith Nyamaka was chosen for the U13 Tshwane Squad
- U10 and U13 teams won silver in the Woodhill College Ocean Basket Festival
- Coach Regina Maepa represented U21 Tshwane team

Senior Netball

- U14A were the overall winners in their league
- U15A finished second in their league
- All B teams won their leagues
- Coach Wilson Malinga, former Tshwane Men's player, managed the Tshwane Men's Netball team
- Coach Anna Makallane coached South African National Defence Force Netball team, as well as the Gauteng team that won gold at the SANDF championship
- Coach Koketso Makena coached the Fusion Men's Netball team that won the Tshwane A-League
- Coach Tanja Pinsloo received her Provincial C+ grading for umpiring
- Ms Dawnita Benadie has her Level 1 in coaching and she is the founder of Netball Skills and Development Programme. Not only did she umpire in the Super League, The Spar South African U21 Championships, and the Senior Netball Championships, she is currently completing her Netball South Africa B in umpiring

Junior Hockey

- Our annual St Mary's DSG Hockey Festival was a major success
    - 12 schools attended where 19 teams participated
- St Mary's DSG participated in both Pretoria and Johannesburg Leagues
- Four players were selected to represent Northern Gauteng U12 and U13
    - Opal Lutwama
    - Gaelen du Toit
    - Kaelo Mokgwetsi
    - Phatu Netshandama
- Coach Marili Burger represented Northern Gauteng U21
- Ms Inke van Wyk, Olympic South African goalkeeper, served as Northern Gauteng selector

Senior Hockey

- St Mary's DSG finished 5th overall in the Big Schools' 2nd league
- U15A won their league
- U16A finished second in their league
- U15A won the Pretoria play-offs and qualified for the Noordvaal Finals Competition
- 10 players selected to represent Northern Gauteng hockey teams

  - Tshimollo Mokgwetsi
  - Karabo Mathole
  - Hannah Kidwell
  - Mignon de Wet
  - Kamogelo Mahlangu
  - Hannah Koorbanally
  - Tshepiso Phaswana
  - Ziko Petse
  - Anza Nebotalo
  - Reitumetse Nyakale

- St Mary's DSG ended 24th at the prestigious St Mary's Waverley Festival
- Coach Adrienne Laaks represented Northern Gauteng U21
- Coach Nadia Volschenk represented Northern Gauteng Ladies, and served as part of the Youth Development programme in the province
- Coach Isabel Malan represented Northern Gauteng Masters Ladies, as well as International Masters Ladies at Masters World Championships
- Coach Sarah Pollet completed the Comrades Marathon for a second time and served as Northern Gauteng selector
- Coach Kelly-Ann Muller (née Kaulback) completed her PhD
- Ms Clara Rautenbach represented Northern Gauteng Country Districts and South African Country Districts, and served on the Northern Gauteng Girls' Hockey committee
- Coach Suzanne Strydom, former Northern Gauteng player, served as Northern Gauteng selector
- Coach Melinda Vos du Toit, former South African Ladies player, served as vice-chairman of the Northern Gauteng Girls' Hockey committee, Northern Gauteng selector and coached Ladies Premier League

Squash

- Ashton Weir and Deneil Beukes, as part of the Northern Gauteng U16A team, won gold at the Inter-Provincial Tournament
- Surina Singh, U16B team, won silver
- Ashton Weir and Deneil Beukes have both been ranked amongst the Top 10 U16 players in South Africa

Senior Basketball

- U15A and U16A won their leagues
- Four players awarded Pretoria League All Stars
    - Katelynne Olifant
    - Thando Ngwenya
    - Karabo Maphenduka
    - Lerato Ijeoma
- Two players awarded Pretoria League Most Valuable Players
    - Ludo Matenge
    - Thando Mothiba
- Mr Neo Mothiba is the former South African Basketball team captain, and is currently coaching Tshwane University of Technology Men's 1st team
- Coach Welcome Mokwena coaches Tshwane University of Technology Ladies' 1st team

Volleyball

- Leagues and Tournaments
    - Goliath Cup League
    - Fourways Tournament
    - AISJ Tournament
    - TUKS High School Volleyball Tournament
- U16 Team qualified for District Play-offs
- Four players selected for U17 Tshwane South Regional Volleyball team
    - Ove Kaharongo
    - Lum Mufor-Atanga
    - Christine Schöttler
    - Raquel Teixeira
- Coach Khutso Letsoalo was selected to the National Student Volleyball Team. She also played in the National Volleyball League 2-a-side Beach Volleyball, winning silver in the finals.
- Coach Madalina Kovacs was appointed this year as the Assistant Coach to the U19 Gauteng Girls' Provincial Team.
- Ms Dina Kladis coaches at the University of Pretoria, both Indoor and Beach Volleyball. She is the Head Coach of the U19 Gauteng Girls' Provincial Team. She is the Chairperson of the Goliath Cup League, the Vice-Chairperson for High Schools of the Tshwane South Regional Committee and a committee member in the Gauteng Interim Committee. She runs coaching and refereeing clinics in Pretoria and in Johannesburg.

Senior Tennis

- Katlego Manyane represented Northern Gauteng U15 at the Inter-Provincial tournament
- Tsobotsi Lehloenya represented Northern Gauteng U16 at the Inter-Provincial tournament
- Coach Linique Theron won the Wilson 150 000 Challenge Tournament. She was selected to represent Namibia at the All Africa Games taking place in Morocco, which will serve as Olympic Qualifiers for Tokyo 2020

Outside Sport

- Rafaella Ndjapa-Ndamkou competed in the Wierda Rhythmic Gymnastics Club Competition on Level 9
- Maxine Boyce represented Gauteng in Modern Pentathlon and participated in the South African Biathle and Triathle Championships
- Joy-Mari Boyce represtented Gauteng in Modern Pentathlon and participated in the South African Biathle and Triathle Championships
- Xera Vegter Maharajh was selected to represent South Africa in the Artistic Swimming Youth World Championships in Slovakia

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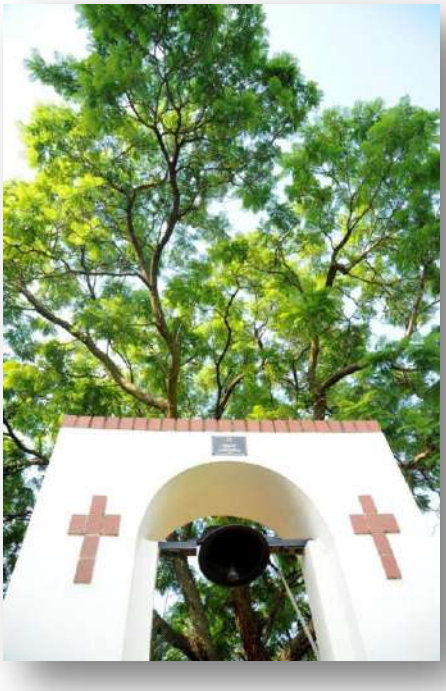
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