



The Anchor

Issue 2

May 2016

Faith, Family, Future

Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Girls

It is wonderful to be back at school, fully recovered and able to enjoy Maris Stella again.

Maris Stella has experienced an extremely busy, yet exciting programme since the start of the term. The Grade 10, 11 and 12 girls went on Retreat; the Grade 3 and 7 girls went on their overnight excursion and our Grade 9 girls went to Touchstone. I am extremely grateful to all the staff who accompanied our girls on the various excursions, their commitment to the holistic development and education of our girls is always so evident. Each of these events are covered in more detail in this edition of The Anchor.

The Matric Dance is a much anticipated highlight at school. It is always a beautiful, elegant occasion and this year was no different. From the photographs and reports, the Matric girls were stylish and beautiful and had a wonderful time. On behalf of all who attended the Dance, a very special thank you to Mrs Clair Cholwich and her fabulous team.

Thank you to the Moms of our younger girls who joined us to celebrate Mother's Day. We had a marvelous time at the Teddy Bears' Picnic, Muffins for Mom and a most meaningful Praise and Worship.

Girls, half-year examinations are now just days away, I urge you to stay focused and positive and to do your very best over the next few weeks. Find a balance of hard work and rigor, but also some recreation and rest and you are sure to achieve well. I wish you all the best for the examinations.

With warm regards

Joan Schmidt

Matric Dance



On Friday 15 April, our Matric ladies were magically transported into a breath-taking new world, *Oriental Whispers*, at their highly anticipated Matric Dance! Complete with zen garden, cherry blossom trees and parasol chandelier, the gorgeous Grade 12s were treated to an unforgettable evening of style, grace and beauty. Thank you to Mrs Cholwich, Mrs Vrey and the incredible team of staff for all their hard work.



Retreat News

Grade 9 Retreat: Touchstone

"Touchstone was an incredible experience that will stay with us forever. When we left for the hike, many of us were unprepared for the challenges that faced us, such as carrying heavy packs with food, clothing, medication, and sleeping and cooking equipment for four days. Lots of us totally overpacked and had to suffer the weight of a heavy pack even though Mrs Aaron checked our packs and took out any unnecessary items, some of which might "accidentally" have fallen back in!

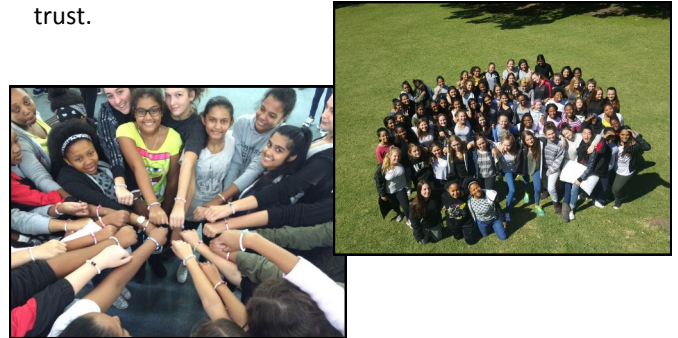
The Giants Cup Trail which we hiked, took us through the Drakensberg Mountains and we were surrounded by beautiful views and landscapes. Despite the challenges we experienced, it was an amazing and highly memorable experience that has had an impact on us all. The support we received from our friends and teachers kept us going, as did the singing and laughing which never failed to throw a positive light on any situation." **Amy Randlehoff, 9Z**

"The Community Outreach was carried out at three schools; Camanga, Reichenau and Thukeyana, as well as Pevensey Place, a home for adults with special needs. The girls also spent one Saturday morning entertaining the children from Clouds of Hope Orphanage. Each of these places provided challenges for the Grade 9s, but without exception, all the girls rose to meet these challenges and in the process, not only grew on a personal level, but also appreciated their own privileges in being healthy, well educated and cared for within a family." **Karen Bodley**



Grade 10 Retreat: African Enterprises

Early this term, the Grade 10s enjoyed some time on retreat at African Enterprises. The theme of the retreat was "Created for Love", exploring relationships, and the importance of respect and trust.



Grade 11 Retreat: L'Abri

The Grade 11s enjoyed a stimulating retreat to L'Abri at the beginning of the term, learning more about the importance of effective communication, leadership and team work.



Grade 12 Retreat: Camp Anerley

Our Matrics experienced a very special retreat to Camp Anerley, centred around the theme of dancing with God; exploring the importance of letting Him lead, trusting Him to direct us and knowing He will be there if we stumble.



Kingsley Holgate visit

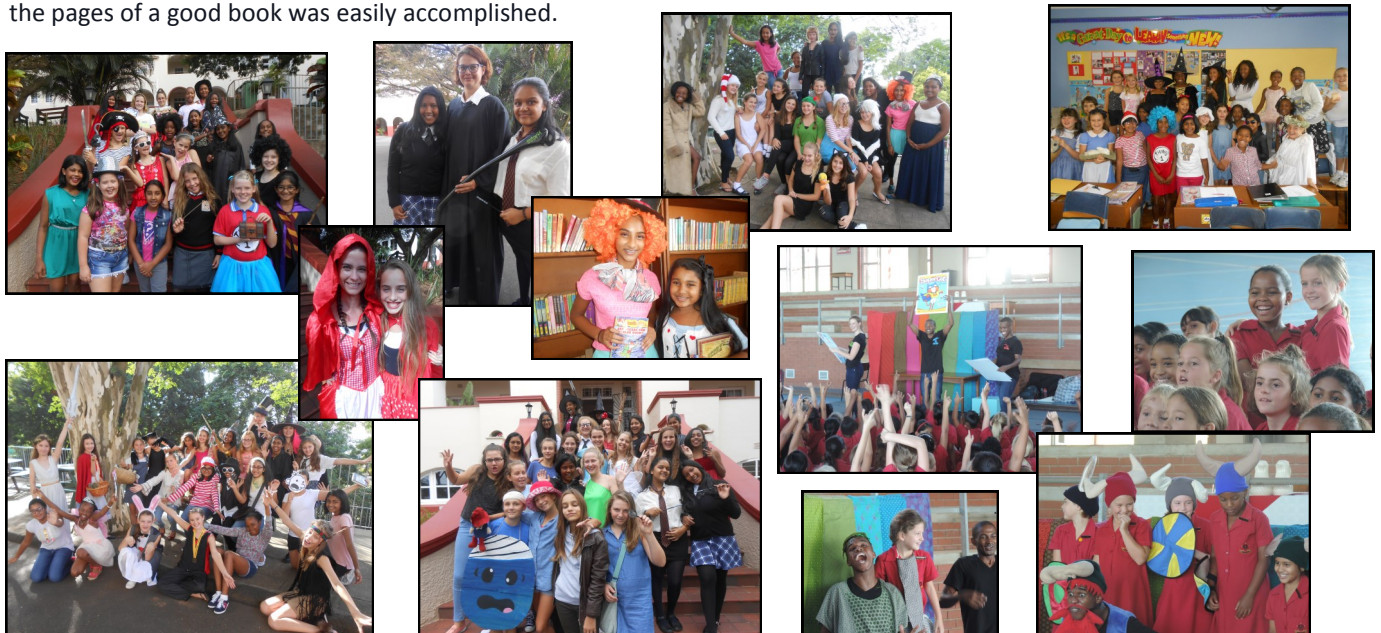
On Friday 22 April, we were honoured to have Kingsley Holgate visit Maris Stella, to raise awareness about the plight of rhinos and highlight the importance of doing everything we can to save them. Accompanied by Sheelagh Antrobus, head of Project Rhino KZN, Kingsley presented certificates to the winners of the Rhino Art Project, as well as teaching us a war cry—“Siyabathanda Obhejane—let our voices be heard.” Well done to all Prep girls for working so hard on your Rhino Art, and thank you for your R10 contributions. We raised a total of R2000, which will go towards Project Rhino’s anti poaching efforts. Our grateful thanks to Grade 4 dad Kenneth Jones for arranging this very memorable visit for us.



Books, books, books!

Not only did our JP and Prep girls enjoy a show by the talented cast of **Hooked on Books**, but we also celebrated **World Book Day** recently. Our Prep Phase girls dressed as their favourite book characters and donated hundreds of books to Kidz 2 Kids Trust, to help enable the creation of beautiful reading corners in under-resourced classrooms around South Africa.

The Hooked on Books team's visually stimulating, dramatic previews of carefully chosen books encouraged the girls to find out how each exciting story finishes, either by making a beeline to the library or by purchasing the book. (Thanks to our generous moms and dads!) With their strong emphasis on audience participation, their aim of drawing the ever-so-eager audience into the pages of a good book was easily accomplished.



Grade 7 excursion to the Crane Sanctuary

Hanna Coppola (7W) and Rachel Henry (7W)

On Wednesday 13 April, 47 Grade 7s climbed onto a tour bus, ready to start our long awaited Entabeni Excursion. The bus ride there was filled with lots of excitement, laughter and of course, loud singing! The three and a half hour trip flew past in what seemed like minutes. On arrival, we were divided into four groups and we started with an exciting programme of activities.

Hiking up a mountain is absolutely exhausting, no matter how hard you try to sugar coat it. But, with the help of our amazing friends, teachers and instructors to keep us safe from the local troop of baboons, we did it! The breath taking view, ancient Bushmen rock art and waterfall at the top were well worth the journey.

Another of our activities involved an hour long walk to the nearby wetland area. We learnt to identify the differences between mud and clay and had loads of fun building imaginary wetland creatures out of the clay from the Hlatikulu River. We also made pottery and had mud fights. After a tiring day, we made our way home, dirty and soaked.

Kayak Polo was another of our fun exercises. As the freezing morning temperatures started to rise, we put on life jackets and lugged our canoes into the water. We got into them, managed to stay afloat (most of the time) and floated out into the centre of the dam. From there we played an exhausting game of Kayak Polo. We splashed and gasped as our canoes often came dangerously close to tipping over into the icy water. After a competitive game, hysterical laughter and squeals as we were splashed with the cold water, we made our way to the Crane Sanctuary. There we learnt about our country's national bird, the Blue Crane. We also studied how the Crowned and Wattle Cranes are being protected from possible extinction. We were in awe and extremely privileged to learn about these beautiful birds up close.

Our bonding time was immense and the new friendships and memories that were made on tour will be unforgettable. We are most grateful to the fantastic staff at Entabeni and to our teachers for making this trip possible.



Grade 3 excursion to Seula

"On Monday 25 April we went to Seula. We first came to school and said goodbye to our loving parents." **S'phesihle Mbuyazi**

"When we got there we walked down the big pathway to get to the camp and then we got put in groups and we had to come up with a war cry and a team name. Our groups name was cool girls." **Esme Horsman**

"After lunch we went to the obstacle course. We did leopard crawling, went to the slip and slide and did that, and went to the pool (the pool was cold!). Then we did the zip-line! It was sooo much fun!" **Layla Francis**



Grade 2 outing to Botanical Gardens

The Grade 2s finally got to enjoy their outing to Botanical Gardens, after it was postponed from the first term due to rain. Luckily the weather played along this time, and the girls had a magical time, even making some art with the nature specimens they found.



Netball

Our netball teams performed so well last season! The U10A, U11A and U16A teams all won bronze medals in their Action Arena Leagues, and the U13A team came second in their league, winning silver medals. This team also took part in the TWC U13 Sports Festival, with captain Sarah Randelhoff being awarded Most Promising Attacker of the Tournament. Well done to all the players and thank you to our fantastic coaches for all your hard work!



South African Nipper Championships

A number of our girls, ranging from Grade 3 to Grade 10, did incredibly well in the recent South African Nipper Champs. From left: Julia McAllister, Madison Stewart, Makayla Paton, Isabella Halstead, Venice Omote, Laura McAllister and Tannah Smith (insert). Missing from the photo are Holly Chellin and Georgina Packham. Special mention must go to Laura and Holly for achieving their Provincial Colours for Surf Lifesaving; Isabella who was the best U12 Girl Competitor; and Tannah who won the U11 Victrix Ludorum for being the top competitor of the Championship.



Hockey

Our hockey teams had an incredibly successful Indoor Hockey season, with our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, U16A and U16B teams all finishing the season unbeaten! Our first team also took part in the KZN SPAR Schoolgirls Hockey Challenge and after finishing the match at 0 – 0, Maris Stella lost to DGC in a nailbiting penalty shootout.

Our 1st Outdoor Hockey Team was invited to compete in the prestigious St Marys Waverly Tournament in Johannesburg in the holidays, while our 2nd team participated in the Crawford La Lucia Annual Hockey Festival. Our U13 team also took part in the TWC U13 Sports Festival. Well played to all girls on their respective tours, and thanks once again must go to our dedicated coaches for all their commitment.



Performing Arts

Three of our students, Megan Mordaunt (Grade 11), Tarlia Samuels (Grade 6) and Alexia Jennings (Grade 11) were selected to represent South Africa for their outstanding Acrobatic and Dance skills. Megan and Tarlia took part in the recent Talent Africa 2016, and were selected for the South African Team invited to perform at Talent America in New York in July. These talented performers won 7 gold medals between them for their excellence in Acrobatics and Dance.



Alexia Jennings has been selected as a member of Performing Arts Team South Africa 2016, that will represent South Africa at the World Championships of Performing Arts in July, in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

High School Production

Disney Day

On 15 and 16 March, our Maris Stella family was treated to "An Evening of Absurdity", as our talented actresses, directed by the inventive Mrs Strauss, showcased their comedic talents. A performance of three comedies, all with a bizarre or unusual twist, provided us with some fireworks for the soul — laughter! Congratulations to the hard working, dedicated cast, backstage crew and of course Mrs Strauss and her team of staff.

Our Pre-school princesses loved every moment of *Disney Day*, a special day of fun, dress up and dancing. They especially enjoyed seeing their mentors dressed up in their beautiful matric dance dresses.



From left are Khutso Thulare, Nandipa Khubone and Sophie Ardle in a scene from *The Actor's Nightmare* by Christopher Durang. It is one of the three comedies from the Maris Stella High School triple bill *An Evening of Absurdity*.

In our next issue of *The Anchor*, we'd like to highlight some of the achievements of our Old Girls. Please send any contributions through to chudson@marisstella.co.za.

Please like our Facebook page, *I heart Maris Stella*, for all the latest news and photos from our events.

