



# The Anchor

Issue 3

September 2017

Faith, Family, Future

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

Time passes quickly and it is hard to believe that another term has drawn to a close. Once again, this has been a busy term at Maris Stella characterised by an intensive sport programme, drama productions, awards ceremonies, sports days, cultural celebrations and so much more.

I am always amazed at how busy our school is and how many girls and of course their teachers, are still here late into the evening, involved in our many after school programmes. I am so grateful to each staff member, (teaching, administrative and support) for their commitment to all that we do for our girls here at Maris Stella.

By now the parents who have daughters in Grade 7 to 11 will have received their Continuous Assessment Reports. I urge you to have a discussion with your daughter regarding her results in order for her to plan her revision and consolidation of work done thus far, so that she can be well prepared for the examinations which take place next term.

I wish you a happy and relaxing holiday.

With warm regards

Joan Schmidt



## Heritage Day Celebrations!

Our Heritage Day celebrations were not only a literal feast, but also a visual and cultural one as well! Our girls and staff embraced this day with such love, dressed in outfits which represented our heritage, and shared traditional meals at a picnic in the MPC, where we were entertained by the incredibly talented Qadasi and Maqhinga. Our festivities included a highly entertaining and culturally diverse concert, in which all phases of our school, staff included, did us proud! "Sounds the call to come together, and united we shall stand "



**Grade 1 Excursion to Flag Animal Farm**



Our Grade 1 girls were beyond excited to board the bus to go on their first outing of the year. After a song-filled drive, they were greeted by all the loving farm animals. Our girls ran around the farm; feeding the goats and horses while some others chased the chickens and the bunnies. A few girls were fortunate enough to even get a cuddle from a bunny! The girls enjoyed the talks about reptiles and wolves and were able to milk some cows. After the exciting morning, they had a much quieter ride back to school with 44 exhausted little girls.



**Grade 5 Excursion to Greensleeves**

Our Grade 5s brought their History syllabus to life with their visit to Greensleeves last week. Dressed up in their medieval finery (executioner included!), the girls loved exploring the castle, sampling their sumptuous feast and generally immersing themselves in all things medieval.



**Grade 2 Excursion to the African Bird Sanctuary**

Our Grade 2s enjoyed a fun-filled and educational day at the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary. The girls were given the opportunity to work in groups and walk around the sanctuary, discovering new and interesting facts about the different birds that are in the park. They watched a show which demonstrated how a few of the different birds fly and catch their prey. These included owls, a Yellow Bill Kite and an eagle. The girls had a wonderful time and were fascinated to watch the vultures feed!



**Grade 6 Excursion to Spirit of Adventure**

Our Grade 6s enjoyed an action packed two days at Spirit of Adventure, in the Shongweni Game Reserve. They faced an exhilarating "Survivor Course", aiming to equip them with an understanding of the role of the leader in a team, the skills involved and the confidence to apply them. Even though some activities appeared challenging at first, they were always fun and achievable, with the "Snake Pit" and the abseiling emerging as definite highlights!



### Grade 11 and 12 Soiree

Our Grade 11s and 12s were treated to a relaxed evening, combining fun with elegance and encouragement, where each Grade 11 was paired with a Matric "sister", to help answer any questions on school, leadership or life in general. Thank you to our Head and Deputy Head Girls for putting together this special evening!



### Grade 8 Cultural Evening

The hall was alive with the vibrant colours and sounds of our beautiful Mzansi when the Grade 8 girls entertained their parents with a cultural experience of food, dance and music in a South African theme. Dressed in saris, traditional dancing beads and skirts, Bok jerseys and safari kit, our parents and girls embraced the spirit of Mzansi and Ubuntu in their evening together.



### Grade 11 Leaders

Our 2018 Portfolio Heads and Vice Heads, along with their Portfolios, have made an exceptional start to their duties this term. During a special Leadership Assembly, Head Girl Qondisa Sibeko encouraged all the Grade 11s to make the most of every opportunity, and inspire others to dream more, learn more, believe more, and do more. Following Maris Stella's servant leadership style, the Grade 11s pledged to uphold the values of integrity, justice, com-



passion and respect that underpin our school, and to lead by example, never expecting of others what they are not prepared to do themselves.

### Music @ Maris Stella Evening

Our recent evening dedicated to the celebration of our musical talent was a wonderful way of bringing our school family together. In the words of Plato, 'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.'



**Pre-school Grandparents' Day**

Our Pre-school hosted a very special Grandparents' Day concert, a testament to the love and devotion our littlest girls have for their granny's and grandpa's. With a celebration of songs embracing our heritage, we were all feeling the love!



**Roald Dahl Day**

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." – Roald Dahl

Wednesday, 13 September was Roald Dahl's birthday and once again this year the Grade 4s celebrated all things Roald Dahl in style! Matilda, Sophie, Willy Wonka, and Mrs Twit, to name a few, could be seen strolling around Maris Stella. The girls modelled their outfits, enjoyed testing their knowledge of the Roald Dahl books, watched *The BFG* and iced Marie Biscuits.



**Grade 7 Market Day**

Our Grade 7 Market Day was the culmination of weeks of work by our savvy Grade 7 entrepreneurs! With valuable lessons learned about market research, effective advertising, competition, and expenses vs profit to name a few, our girls are to be congratulated on their excellent efforts and innovative ideas!



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



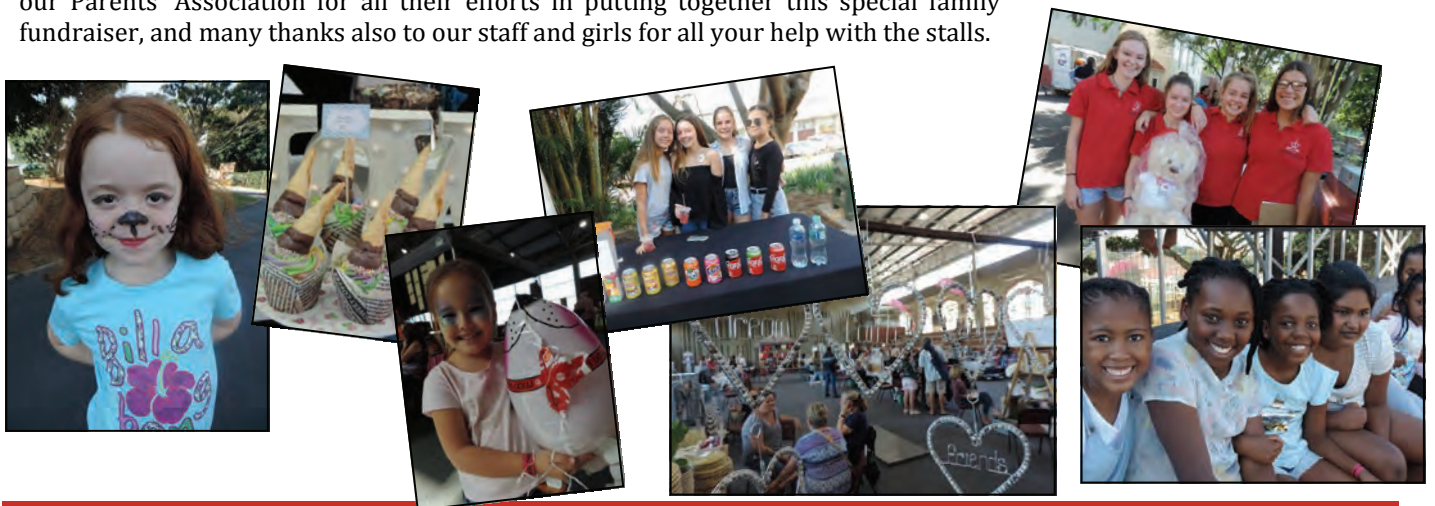
### Sunflower Fund Day: Mzansi Magic!

One of the most anticipated events in our calendar, Sunflower Fund Day, was awash with fun, style, flair and much "Mzansi Magic", our theme for this year's celebrations. From music, laughter and bubbles on arrival at school, to face painting and tea parties for our littlest girls, the day culminated in a jaw dropping fashion show, alive with Mzansi Magic, organised by our Grade 11s. Each class in our Prep and High School worked together to create a unique, imaginative outfit made from topes, and we were fortunate to have Fashion Nanny, Sabrina Maingard, as our celebrity judge. This is the 10th year that Maris Stella has had the honour of supporting The Sunflower Fund, and we are so proud of our Maris Stella Family, for raising R24 250 through the purchase of 970 topes!



### I Heart Maris Stella Market

A big thank you to our Maris Stella Family and friends who supported our I Heart Maris Stella Market! We were blessed with the most glorious winter's day, and had so much fun enjoying the rides, browsing around the craft market, and relaxing in the beautiful (and delicious!) tea garden. Thank you to our dedicated team of moms and dads from our Parents' Association for all their efforts in putting together this special family fundraiser, and many thanks also to our staff and girls for all your help with the stalls.

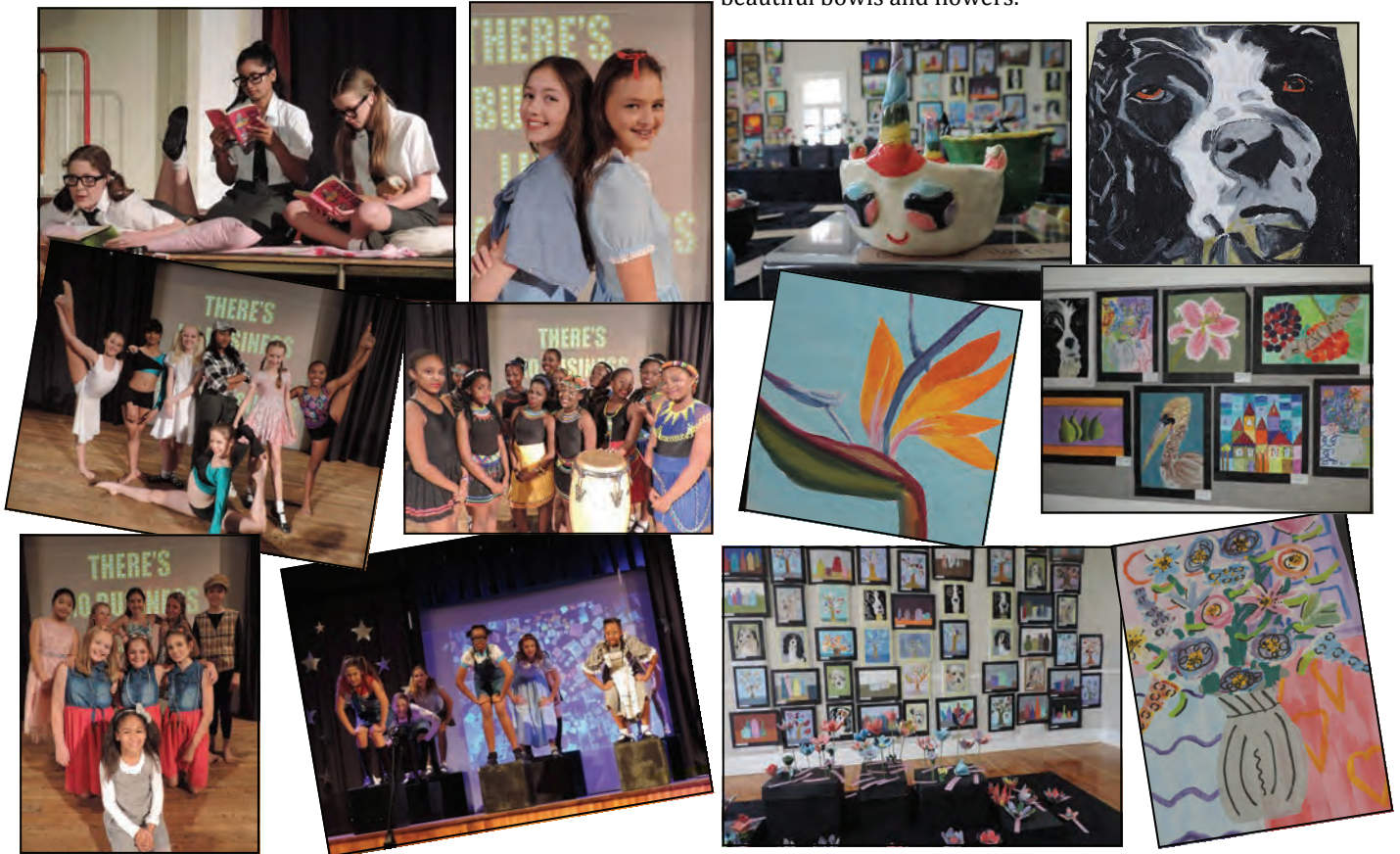


**There's No Business Like Show Business!**

**Prep Art Exhibition**

Congratulations to the talented cast and crew of our Prep Production, 'There's No Business Like Show Business!' This exciting, colourful and entertaining showcase of the many different skills of our Prep girls was a delight to watch, and instilled renewed respect for the many gifts our girls have been given. A big thank you to Mrs Joubert for all her efforts in producing such a wonderful show, and for being such a constant inspiration to our girls.

Our Prep Art Exhibition was a visual feast in celebration of the creativity of our Grade 4 to 7 girls. Whether it was created using paint, pastel, pencil or clay, each piece of work on display was a testament to the imagination and determination of our girls, as well as the skill of Prep Art teacher, Mrs Andrew and locum, Ms Jennings. A talented ceramic artist, Ms Jennings has shared her love of ceramics with the girls this term, who have so enjoyed creating their own beautiful bowls and flowers.



**Matric Art Exhibition**

Some beautiful, inspired art pieces, painstakingly created by our talented Matrics, are on display until the 16 October. Everyone is most welcome to visit!



**Pre-school Sports Day**

Our Pre-school girls had such a ball at their Sports Day! The girls loved running, jumping and cheering together, especially with all their moms, dads, grans and grandpas proudly watching!



**Softball**

We are so proud of our softball team, who came 3rd in the Schools' A League, after winning the B League last season. Even more impressive is that 6 Maris Stella players have been selected to play for KZN Squads. Courtney Stuart, Tracey Powell and Tegan Sinclair have been selected for the U18 KZN Softball Squad, and Caitlyn Gooding, Samishka Chetty and Jenna O'Brien have been selected for the U15 KZN Softball Squad.



**Junior Primary Sports Day**

Our Junior Primary girls loved every minute of their Sports Day, participating wholeheartedly in their races, and cheering their teammates on with much enthusiasm! Congratulations to the overall winners, Ambrose, and the Spirit Trophy recipients, Marian! It was a very close contest, with the results as follows:

- 1st place: Ambrose, 49 points
- 2nd place: Marian, 46 points
- 3rd place: Patrician, 42 points

A big thank you to all the Moms, Dads, Grans and Grandpas for all your willing and cheerful support!



**Lifesaving**

We congratulate Teegan Hardwick, who has been selected for the South African 2017 International Surf Rescue Challenge Team, which will be hosted by Surf Life Saving New Zealand in November. Teegan, who has her Colours for Lifesaving, has been training for this since she started Lifesaving at the age of 7. Last year, she represented South Africa at the World Lifesaving Championships in the Netherlands, winning a Gold Medal.



Teegan was also recognised as Maris Stella's Sportswoman of the Year at our Sports Awards Evening on 26 September.

### Highlighting some of our Maris Stella Super Stars



In our special Third Term Awards Assembly, the following girls were congratulated for their excellent achievements:

#### **Certificates of Recognition:**

Zora Merkofer (Grade 2 Piano Trinity College of London Exam), Irene An (Distinction for Grade 4 Violin examination Grade 5 Piano examination), Xoliswa Gcaba (Durban Central Soccer), Savannah Papenfus, (Durban Central Soccer), Amy Randelhoff (Durban Central Soccer), Survivor Gwala (Durban Central Soccer), Khwezi Buthelezi (Durban Central Soccer), Madison Briant (Durban Central Soccer),

Zinhle Sithole (Durban Central Soccer), Laura McAlister (Durban Central Soccer), Tannah Smith (Umlazi Cross Country and KZN Duathlon Team), Caitlyn Gooding (Umlazi Cross Country), Mia Vlotman (Umlazi U12 Netball), Carly Smith (Umlazi U12 Netball), Babalwa Mkhize (KZN Gymnastics), Ashleigh Prinsloo (KZN Gymnastics), Mzuzu Mhlongo (KZN Gymnastics), Jaimee Coxwell (KZN Gymnastics), Holly Chelin (KZN U14B Hockey), Sarah Proctor (KZN U14B Hockey), Chloe Pillay (KZN Karate), Mia Blythe (South African Synchronised Swimming), Shriyaa Sooklal (KZN Junior Debating).

**Certificates of Recognition** were awarded to the following girls for achieving Distinctions in their Ballet, Modern or Tap Dancing exams:

Jordyn Lombaard, Tatum Stewardson, Jannah Winter, Olivia Elliot, Megan Grout, Lauren Walsh, Hannah Brannigan, Raeven Phillips, Ryleigh Rutherford, Lufuno Chili, Eyethu Shabangu, Jade Young, Jamie le Roux, Divanya Pillay, Tejal Sood-yall.

**Certificates of Recognition** were awarded to the following girls for winning their Forum Discussion:

Tia Munsamy, Jodi Nobin, Andiswa Gumbi, Jody Ribbink, Luyanda Mhlongo, Oluhle Ndlovu, Romaine Cabusas, Bayanda Gumedede.

**Scrolls** are awarded to the following girls for going through to the Quarter Finals of the DCDL Debating League:

Alisha Chutarpal, Bronwyn Harris, Lulu Mbanga.

#### **Half Colours:**

Megan Lombard (KZN U16C Hockey), Lila Heath (KZN U16B Hockey), Luyanda Ndlovu (KZN U17B Netball)

#### **Full Colours:**

Courtney Stuart (KZN U18A Softball), Tracey Powell (KZN U18A Softball )

#### **Honours:**

Emma-Leigh Chisholm (South African Karate) and Gabriella Alessandri (South African Karate)