



# The Anchor

Issue 3

September 2018

## Faith, Family, Future

### From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls,

The holidays have arrived and we hope that all our staff, girls, parents and families enjoy a happy and healthy break before the new term is upon us again.

You will see in this edition of The Anchor that our girls continue to be outstanding advocates for Maris Stella and have represented us in an array of opportunities across all areas. This term we have enjoyed public displays of work from so many pupils in the creative arts and many of our girls and teams have excelled on the sports field. A highlight this term was the exceptional achievements by many of our girls who entered the Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge. We are so proud of our girls achievements and sincerely thank all the staff who are so involved and committed to their progress.

This holiday, I encourage our senior girls to balance rest with some serious revision as the year end examinations begin soon after we return for the fourth term.

Wishing you all a restful and safe holiday with your families.

Warm regards

Joan Schmidt

### Sunflower Fund Day Celebrations

Our Sunflower Fund Day celebrations are always one of the highlights of our school calendar, and this year was no different! This is the 10th year we've had the honour of supporting The Sunflower Fund and this year's theme, "Be Your Own Hero", was so creatively interpreted by our girls (and many outfits so beautifully made by moms and grans!). Judges of our Fashion Show included Maris Stella Old Girl, Georgina Brink, winner of this year's Vodacom Durban July's Young Designer Award, Tanith King from the Sunflower Fund, Mr J and Miss Schwegmann. Well done to our new Portfolios for working together so well to organise and facilitate this exciting day, and thank you so much to our Maris Stella Family for helping us to Be The Hope, through purchasing over 850 totes and embracing this day with such love.



**2019 Portfolio Heads and Vice Heads**

Proudly introducing our 2019 Portfolio Heads and Vice Heads! We are confident that in true Maris Stella servant leader style, they will serve with courage, humility and enthusiasm, upholding our values of respect, integrity, and compassion.



Top Row: Lulu Mbanga, Rebecca Standage, Amy Randelhoff, Bronwyn Harris, Alexandra Erskine  
 Second Row: Aimee-Sera McLeod, Adrienne Dickason, Megan Lombard, Kwazikwakhe Ndlovu, Hannah Dingley  
 Front Row: Survivor Gwala, Arielle Jack, Julia Blythe, Melissa Mpako, Lucy Paynter, Ukhona Ngcongco.

**Grade 8 Cultural Evening**

At our Cultural Evening with the Grade 8s and families, we enjoyed a Country and Western style celebration! A big thank you to our Grade 8 teachers for the creative decor, delicious food and delightful entertainment, and to our Grade 8s, for all their hard work in putting together such a fun evening.



**Prep Production: Olivia!**

Our wonderful Prep Production, Olivia, was a magnificent showcase of the incredible talent we have in our Prep Phase, who enchanted audiences on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 September. We gratefully thank Mrs Holmes, Mrs Tsouris, Mrs du Plessis, Mrs Thurtell and Mrs Ribbink for all their hard work in putting this exciting show together, and of course our girls for sharing their gifts with us!



**Family Mass**

On Sunday 26 August, we came together as a Maris Stella Family to celebrate Mass. The theme Empathy and Family highlighted the importance of our own nuclear families as the place where Empathy is nurtured. Through our daily practise of love, patience, respect and selflessness, we are emulating the gospel values that Jesus himself taught us and teaching by example how to be compassionate family members of humanity. Fr Allan Moss highlighted the importance of becoming ONE in the family, just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are 3 persons in One.



### Pre-school Grandparents Day

Our Pre-school girls paid a very special tribute to their grannies and grandpas at their Grandparents' Day concert on 17 August! Thank you to all our wonderful Maris Stella grandparents, for always being our sunshine, no matter how old we grow.



### Pre-school Sports Day

The excitement at our Pre-school Sports Day on Wednesday 8 August was almost tangible, as our littlest girls ran and cheered with such spirit and joy, proving once again that the more we are together, the happier we'll be!



### Junior Primary Sports Day

Our Junior Primary girls had so much fun at their Sports Day on 8 August, and just loved running, jumping and cheering for their House! Well done to Ambrose, the overall winners of the Cup, and Marian, who were awarded the Spirit Trophy!



### Grade 11 History and Drama Classes at the Hilton Festival



### I Heart Maris Stella Market

Thank you so much to our Maris Stella Family and friends for sharing such a fun and sun filled day at our I Heart Maris Stella Market on Saturday 28 July! Special thanks to our dedicated Parents' Association for all their efforts in raising funds for our school, and thank you to all our awesome vendors, our Marimba bands, all the moms who helped, as well as our teachers, girls and Mr Mchunu and his hard working team.



### Grade 1 Flag Animal Farm Excursion

Our Grade 1s had such fun on their excursion to Flag Animal Farm! it was not easy for them to choose their best part - riding the ponies, milking the cows, holding the snakes, feeding the goats, the tractor ride, or the bus trip there and back!



### Grade 2 African Birds of Prey Visit and Reptile Talk

Our Grade 2 girls went on an exciting excursion to the African Bird Of Prey Sanctuary on 6 August. The girls worked in groups to answer questions on the different birds of prey while visiting each of the bird habitats. The highlight was definitely the informative and fun bird show. They also recently enjoyed a reptile talk by Educate and Fascinate where they learnt so much about various reptiles and were even brave enough to hold and touch the reptiles that were brought along!



### Grade 3 Visit to Ushaka

Our Grades 3s enjoyed a very busy and informative day at uShaka Marine World last week. In what was a very tactile, hands on learning experience, they examined tiny sea organisms through microscopes, touched sea cucumbers and anemones, dissected sardines, as well as toured the aquarium, discovering new facts and learning more about life under the sea. Their exciting day culminated in the ever magical dolphin show.



### Grade 4 Roselands Excursion

On Thursday, 6 September 2018, our Grade 4 girls enjoyed an exciting night away at Roselands Outdoor Adventure Centre. Surrounded by the most beautiful scenery, the girls bravely tackled various activities, such as zip lining into the dam, canoeing and a challenging mud obstacle course. They also learnt about the importance of organic farming and had the opportunity to pick and taste fresh vegetables and milk a cow.



### Grade 5 Sweetdale Excursion

Our Grade 5s loved every minute of their exciting trip to Sweetdale Camp earlier this term! Including rock climbing, a high rope obstacle course, ziplining, night walks and home made pizza, our girls developed their team work skills, laughed fear in the face, and enjoyed spending time together.



### Grade 6 Spirit of Adventure Excursion

Our Grade 6s enjoyed a stimulating two days at Spirit of Adventure recently, where they developed their teamwork skills and conquered their fears as they took the plunge down the infamous dam wall!



### Grade 7 Market Day

Well done to our savvy Grade 7s for all the hard work that went into their Market Day on 30 August! After doing their market research and some careful budgeting, we were spoiled for choice with so many creative and delicious options, and enjoyed some serious retail therapy!

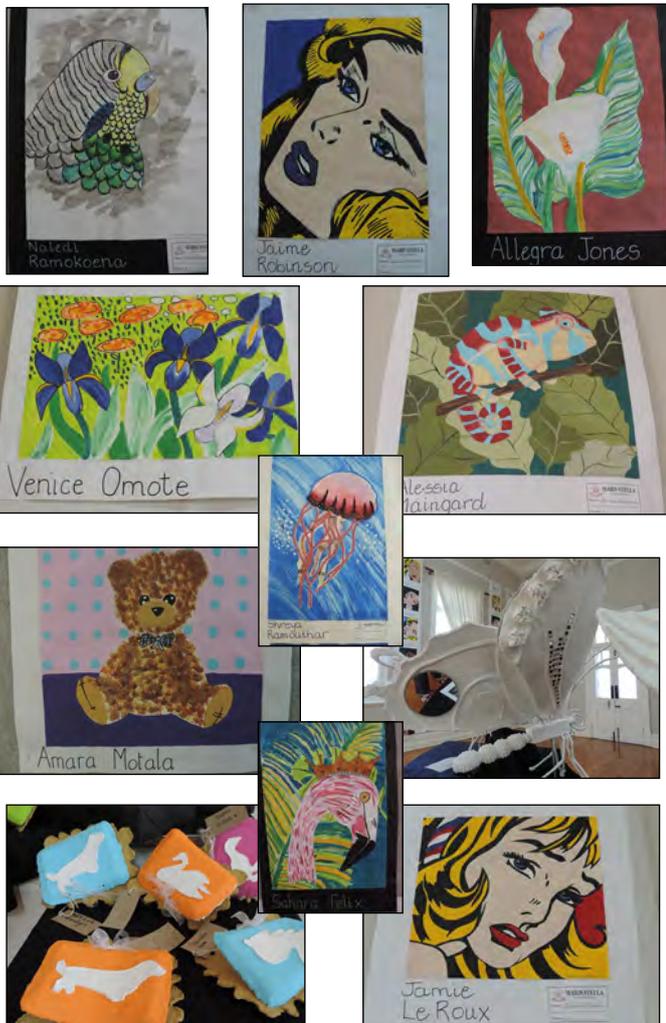


**Prep Art Exhibition**

Our beautiful Prep Art Exhibition in the Parlour Room was a testament to the talent and creativity of our Prep girls, and left us both awed and inspired by their skillful creations! A big thank you to Mrs Andrew for guiding our girls to achieve so



much more than they ever believed they could, and for once again reminding us that "art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life" - Pablo Picasso.



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



**Public Speaking**

Congratulations to Shriyaa Sooklal, who won the award for the Best Grade 10 Speaker at the Daily News Best Speaker Competition held on 16 August. Shriyaa gave a thought provoking address entitled *Surviving Social Media*, and spoke about how society is affected by the use of social media and how we now live our lives through emojis, rather than through human interaction. Shriyaa was also recognised as the runner up to Best Junior Speaker for 2018 by the Durban and Coastal Debating League.



**Dance**

Tayla Morrow achieved excellent results at the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Los Angeles, medalling in every dance performance she entered in the 16-17 age category. She was awarded Gold Medals in Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre; Silver in Tap; and Bronze for Contemporary, Open and Lyrical Dance. She also received a Divisional Award for Best Dancer in the 16-24 age category. Tayla won a Bronze Medal for her Broadway Open Acting piece, and was also one of very few participants who received a partial scholarship to the New York Film Academy.



**Highland Dancing**

Kaylee Walker recently took part in the Annual 87th South African Highland Dancing Championships in Benoni, Gauteng, and achieved phenomenal results. She won both the Highland Section, for which she was awarded the Conchie Trophy, and then went on to win the National Section, for which she was awarded the Barrowman Shield. Kaylee won a total of 2 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals, 1 Bronze medal and a 5th position, becoming the overall South African Champion Novice 12 Years and under for 2018.



**Tap Dance**

Congratulations to Jody Ribbink, who received a Distinction with 94% for her first major tap examination, Silver Higher. Jody was also awarded the Top Achiever of the Year by the A.I.D.T. (Association of International Dance Teachers) in her category, meaning that she is the top tap dancer in KZN in her grade. This is an extremely prestigious award in a highly competitive field!



**Allan Gray Entrepreneurial Challenge**

The Allan Gray Entrepreneurial Challenge is a national competition that gamifies learning about entrepreneurship for high school pupils in Grades 8 to 12 in South Africa. With over 15 000 competitors from schools all over the country, this competition is run over 6 weeks, from 1 August to 12 September, with weekly challenges that pupils need to complete. The participants are exposed to useful mindsets, habits and concepts for entrepreneurs. This year, Maris Stella has 78 pupils registered for the Allan Gray Challenge, and we are currently



ranked at number 1 in the country, enjoying first place on the leader board thus far! Thank you to Mrs van Blerk and Ms Dewar for guiding and inspiring our girls to achieve their best.

**Cross Country**



Well done to Ella-Rose Gass and Alyssa Gass, on their excellent performances at the South African Cross Country Championships recently. Ella-Rose came 18th (U11) and Alyssa came 42nd (U14) in this national event.

**Toastmasters**

On Tuesday 11 September, our Grade 11 Toastmasters celebrated the successful conclusion of their Toastmasters programme with a special awards banquet. Congratulations to the following girls who received awards:



Adrienne Dickason (Leadership), Hannah Watt (Diligence), Jamie Livingston (Most Improved and Enthusiastic), Alexandra Erskine (Best Prepared Speech), Chloé Garrioch (Runner Up Best Speech), Melissa Mpako (Best Evaluator), Hannah Watt (Runner Up), Sinemphilo Khati (Best Impromptu Speech ), Adrienne Dickason (Runner Up). Thank you to Mrs Ziegler for facilitating this valuable course.

**Swimming**

Congratulations to Kayci Petzer, Tatum Botha, Cara Message and Robyn Aaron, who have been selected for the KZN Swimming Team. Wishing the girls all the best for the Three Province Swimming Challenge taking place in October!



**Karate**

Aimee Dunn took part in the KZN Development Championships in July, and was selected for the KZN Development Karate Team which will take part in the South African Development Championships in October. In the Karate South African Open, Chloe Pillay



won a bronze medal for her Team Kata, and Double Gold at the Shotokan Karate International South African Competition in August. Nyska Jagasur was awarded her South African Colours by Karate South Africa, after competing in Botswana and bringing home a silver medal for her Kumite. Nyska also competed in the KSA South African Elite Karate Championships, where she won a silver and a bronze medal.

**U13A Netball**



We congratulate our inspirational U13A netball team on yet another fantastic season of netball! This dedicated, committed team has remained unbeaten for three seasons now! The only game they have conceded was the Action Netball Final in the first term, where they came second in their League, winning silver medals. This season, they played at both the Catholic Schools Sports Festival hosted by Our Lady of Fatima, winning all their matches against some stiff competition, as well as winning all their games at the St John's Festival earlier this term. Five of their players have been selected to participate in the KZN Action Netball Super League in preparation for the KZN 2019 team selection. They are Nyiko Mathe, Kwethu Dlamini, Nasipha Dlamini, Carly Smith and Mia Vlotman. Our thanks to their special coach, Mrs Bezuidenhout.