



The Anchor

Issue 1

March 2017

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Be Your Own Hero in 2017!

Dear Parents and Girls

Term One is always filled with plenty of fun; outings, competitions and a jam-packed academic programme. Many of the events are reported on in this issue of The Anchor and it is amazing to see how much actually went on at Maris Stella over this term. I thank all the staff for their dedication and commitment to the Academic Programme as well as the Extramural Programme.

At our recent AGM Mike Montocchio stepped down as Chairman of our Board. Mike served as Chairman for three years and during this period, gave of his time and expertise willingly and enthusiastically. He has been a wonderful support to me, and for this I thank him most sincerely. Mike has been instrumental in instituting and implementing our School Strategy and his work and expertise in this area have enabled us to have a clear vision. On behalf of the Maris Stella community, we thank Mike for his wisdom and wise counsel and wish him the reward of God's richest blessings.

I am delighted to inform you that at our Board meeting following the AGM, Mr Paul Canter was voted on as our Chairman. Paul is married to Lesley and they have a daughter, Claire, who is presently in Grade 11. They also have a son, John Paul who wrote Matric last year and is currently studying towards a BCom.

The Vice-Chairman is Mr Nivesh Mothilal. Nivesh is married to Tammy and they have two daughters, Treya in Grade 8 and Arshia in Grade 5.

Mrs Sharalene Randelhoff was re-elected Finance Officer.

I thank all the members of our Board for agreeing to serve the school for another year.

On behalf of the entire staff of Maris Stella, we wish you and your families a very blessed Easter. May the miracle of Easter bring us all renewed hope, love and faith.

Warm regards

Joan Schmidt

"The Lord is close to all those who call on Him... "

Psalm 145:18

Our first day back to school for the whole Maris Stella Family was met with shrieks and laughter as the PR Portfolio Superheroes enthusiastically welcomed us all back home, and reminded us that "All the best heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary." (Gerard Way.) We are so proud of all our girls for embracing our 2017 maxim, "I am, because We are."



Top 10 Gala

D & D Galas

Our Top 10 Gala on 7 February showcased some of the superb swimming talent we are so proud of! Our swimmers treated us to an evening of exciting swimming, and are to be congratulated on their excellent performances. Thank you to our Guests of Honour, Mrs Mezher, Mrs Message and Mrs Hardwick, for presenting the medals. Well done especially to our Junior Victrix Ludorum, Amy Aaron, our Junior Victrix Ludorum, Cara Message, and our Senior Victrix Ludorum, Megan Lombard.

We are so proud of our Maris Stella swimmers, who swam their hearts out at our three D&D Galas, giving their all for their team. As Vice Swimming Captain, Amy Mezher so aptly said, "After 8 years of swimming in D&D Galas, I've come to realize that Maris Stella has more passion and determination than any other school. Swimming is an individual sport but we are more of a close-knit team. The amount of effort that is put in behind the scenes by the coaches, teachers and captains is not always seen but much appreciated by all of us. Maris Stella pride is passion, commitment, determination, courage and above all united."

Our High School Team came 6th in the Girls A League, our Prep Team came an incredible 2nd in their A League, and our Prep B Team came 4th in the Co-Educational League.



DURBAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following girls who were elected to the 2017 Durban Youth Council:

Candice Brown – Council Manager

Sinenhlanhla Khumalo – Sports and Recreation

Claire Canter – Advocacy
Jordan Lambert – Director of Environment and Infrastructure

Naledi Cele – Feeding Schemes and Disabilities

Sanele Dlamini – HIV and Humanities



Pre-school Family Picnic

Our Pre-school girls so enjoyed their evening picnic with their families and friends! A big thank you to our mentors for all your help, including some impressive face painting skills!



Junior Primary Family Braai

Our Junior Primary Family Braai last Friday night was a wonderful opportunity for all our JP families to get together for a relaxing evening. Our JP mentors played tirelessly with the girls, and there was much fun had all round!



Grade 6 Market Day

The Grade 6 Market Day was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school on 2 March. With a wide variety of delicious treats and entertaining items on offer, it was clear to see how hard the girls worked on their stalls and produce (while having a large amount of fun of course!)



Valentine's Day

We were feeling the love at Maris Stella on Valentine's Day! From donuts to free hugs, danceathons and dress up, a variety of celebrations were enjoyed in honour of St Valentine.



Prep Gala

Our Prep Gala on Wednesday was overflowing with spirit as our Grades 4s to 7s gave their all, both in the pool and cheering for their Houses in the stands. Congratulations to Patrician, our overall winner, whose talented team also broke 6 records! Well done to our Marian Mad Hatters for winning the Spirit Trophy.



Junior Primary Gala

Our Junior Primary Gala was awash with colour and excitement as our girls swam their very best and cheered their team mates enthusiastically! Well done to our winners, Patrician, and congratulations to Marian on being awarded the Spirit Trophy.



Midmar Mile

Maris Stella were extremely proud to have over 20 girls participate in this year's Midmar Mile. Emma Roberts, at only 8 years of age, was one of the youngest participants in the race, and Kristina le Roux, Grade 12, raised R1000 for Community Chest. We are also exceptionally proud of Keli Reynolds, Grade 11, who swam 8 Miles, raising an incredible R13 500 for CHOC. This is the third year in a row that Keli has taken part in these marathon swims.



More swimming champs

There has been a lot of time spent in the water this term! We are so proud of Cara Message and Tamryn Palani, who have been selected for the KZN Schools Team which will be competing in Polokwane during the holidays. Well done to Venice Omote and Mikaela Davies for their KZN Level 2 Championship successes, and congratulations to the below girls on their selection to the Umlazi Swimming Team!

Front Row: Tamryn Palani, Cara Message, Robyn Aaron, Mikaela Davies.

Back Row: Isabella Halstead, Claudia Coppola, Gina Ten-Bokkel Huinink, Jaime Robinson.

Absent: Megan Lombard, and Tannah Smith



Grade 8 Retreat

On 9 and 10 February, our Grade 8s engaged in their Retreat at Camp Jonathan. The theme was ‘A Journey with God ...Follow Me...I am the Way’. As they are beginning a new stage in their journey of their lives, the retreat was aimed at highlighting the necessary tools needed upon this new journey, as well as exploring their own personal spiritual journey. The retreat had a three way purpose: to develop and deepen their spiritual connection to God; to discover a little bit more about who they are and where they are going; and to bond together as a new Grade 8 class. Filling in the points of their Moral Compass and being focused on a Pure Destination were also important parts of this retreat. Pupils wrote on a pebble symbolising the burdens that they will “let go” of, and placed them at the foot of the cross in a moving evening service.

A big thank you to the staff of both Camp Jonathan and Maris Stella, for providing the girls with this unique and priceless experience to develop the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of themselves, while having such fun and creating lasting memories.



Prep Choir



G.I.S Olympiad

Our Prep Choir, along with seven other local choirs, participated in a choir workshop and performance to celebrate the 75th birthday of Bishop Wood. We are so proud of our girls, who truly did justice to the beauty of Emmanuel Cathedral and added to the joy of the occasion. Thank you to Mrs Hadjiev for all your efforts!



The South African Geography Teachers Association (SAGTA) in association with the Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA) hosted the first ever GIS Olympiad for KZN on Friday 24 February. Grade 11 Geography pupils were invited to enter. Out of 25 teams that entered, representing 13 different schools across KZN, Maris Stella’s team consisting of Sisi Gcaba, Lerusha Naidoo and Sanele Dlamini, achieved 100% for the Olympiad and came second overall, based on their time.



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



Highlighting some more of our Maris Stella Super Stars

DIVING: We recently received notification from KZN Schools Aquatics that 5 of our Junior Springboard Diving Team members have been selected to represent KZN at the SA Schools National Diving Competition!

This fledgling extramural, which we introduced at the beginning of this year, has proven to be very popular, in both the High School and Prep Phase. The first term has seen a huge interest in the sport with some 40 divers attending coaching sessions each week. Congratulations to: Aimee Dunn, Amy Thackwray and Megan Grout (U12), and Addison Miskey and Mackenzie Van Niekerk (U10)



TENNIS: Congratulations to Kaitlyn Ramduth on her selection to the KZN U13 Tennis Team! Kaitlyn, aged 10, is ranked at number 4 in the country for her singles, number 1 in the country for doubles, and number 9 for mixed doubles (all U12!). Well done Kaitlyn!



ATHLETICS: We are so proud of our star athletes who performed so well at the Durban Central Trials:
Grace Symington (U15): 1st in 100m
Caitlyn Gooding (U15): participated in 800m
Georgina Mercer (U15): 2nd in Long Jump
Carly Smith (U11): 1st in High Jump and Long Jump
Absent: Emma-Leigh Chisholm, Malaika Ahidwe and Tannah Smith

WATERPOLO: Congratulations to Cerin Vaughan who has been selected to represent the KZN U18 Ladies Waterpolo Team, and Megan Lombard for her selection as a non-travelling reserve.



After their successes at the Umlazi Trials, Carly Smith and Georgina Mercer competed in KZN Trials, Carly placing 5th in the 70m Hurdles and Georgina 4th in the Long Jump.



KARATE: Congratulations to Emma-Leigh Chisholm (Grade 12), Gabriella Alessandri (Grade 10), and Aimee Dunn (Grade 6) who competed in the KZN JKA Championships. Emma-Leigh achieved a Gold medal for Kata, a Silver medal for Kumite, Gabriella received Gold medals for both Kata and Kumite, while Aimee was awarded a Silver medal for Kumite and placed in the Top 6 for Kata. They will all compete at Nationals in Johannesburg in May, where they hope to qualify for the JKA World Cup, in Ireland, in August.



Nyska Jagasur and Emma-Leigh Chisholm both won Gold medals for Kumite in the recent KZN Karate Trials and qualified to participate in the SA Karate Trials. Both girls were awarded their KZN Colours for their excellent achievements.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Matthew 5:6

