



The Anchor

Issue 1

March 2018

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

This has been such a busy term, one in which the achievements of our girls have been so rewarding, and their enthusiasm and determination have been infectious. Wherever our girls are in the school, they reflect the fun and the enjoyment of being together and learning. We are blessed to have such a special Maris Stella Family of energetic girls, committed parents and dedicated staff members, and each person plays an important part of our whole.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading this edition of The Anchor as it showcases the many events and happenings that have taken place at our school this term.

One of the key messages of the Easter Story is a call to intentionally make a difference, both to our own communities and to others. Our Grade 9 girls leave on their Touchstone experience at the beginning of next term, where they will be doing just this, and I ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Enjoy the holidays with family and friends and thank you to our Maris Stella Family for a wonderful Term 1. I wish you a blessed Easter.

With warm regards

Joan Schmidt



High School Production: Circus Olympus

A big thank you to the cast and crew of our outstanding High School Production for sharing your talents with us, in the thoroughly entertaining Circus Olympus! These "Greek Geeks" may not have been the Cirque du Soleil, but with the greatest stories in the world, an open stage and a friendly audience, they made the magic happen! Congratulations to Director Ms Smit and her fantastic team on an incredible performance!



Grade 1 Charity Visit

Our Grade 1s thoroughly enjoyed their visit from the SA Guide-Dogs Association recently! Our girls were thrilled to meet not one but two beautiful guide dogs and were entranced by their level of skill and enthusiasm for their job. The Grade 1 classes traditionally support this very worthy cause each year, and very proudly contribute their Baker-Baker money each Friday to assist.



D&D Galas

We are so proud of our Maris Stella girls, who battled it out both in the pool and vocally on the stands at our three D&D Galas, and achieved such phenomenal results! Our Prep B Team won their E League Gala and have been promoted to the next League. Our Prep A Team tied for 4th place in the Prep A League Gala, while our High School team came 6th in the High School A League. Gala

Well done to all our swimmers, for the continued determination you have shown this term, attending the many early morning and afternoon swimming training sessions, and encouraging and motivating each other. We are also most grateful to our staff and coaches for all the time and effort that they have willingly given to ensure our girls were well prepared! Not to forget our parents, for the many lift to and from practices, and for all your support both in and out of the pool.

We are also immensely proud of how our enthusiastic spectators never stopped cheering our team on, with their indomitable spirit and unwavering support!



Top 10 Gala

Our Top 10 Gala held early in the term was a testament to the commitment and dedication of our elite swimmers. As indicated by the number of records that were broken and

other excellent results, their hours of training paid off! Congratulations to all our swimmers from Grade 1 to 12, and well done especially to our three Victrix Ludorum - Amy Aaron (Junior Victrix Winner), Robyn Aaron (Prep Victrix Winner), and Tatum Botha (Senior Victrix Winner).



KZN Swimming Representatives

Congratulations to our Maris Stella swimmers who participated in the Provincial Championships at Kings Park last month, and achieved such excellent results!

Front Row: Hannah Savage, Kayci Petzer, Tatum Botha. Back Row: Robyn Aaron, Tamryn Palani, Megan Lombard, Erica Hair, Kaylyn Asgeir-Nielsen.



Junior Primary Gala

We are so proud of all our Junior Primary girls, who swam with such enthusiasm and joy at last week's Inter-house Gala! Well done to Marian for winning the Spirit Trophy, and congratulations to Patrician on your well deserved win!



Prep Gala

Our Inter-house Prep Gala was a scene of much excitement and vibrant colour as our Prep girls gave their best effort for their houses, both in the pool and on the stands as they cheered their friends on! Congratulations to Patrician, who swam their way to victory, breaking an incredible 7 records, including four by the U10 team and two by the Junior Open Team! Well done to Ambrose, deserving winners of the Spirit Cup!



High School Gala



Our High School Gala on 13 March was an exuberant celebration of fun and friendship, all the more poignant for our Matrics, being their last one. Congratulations to Marian on a well deserved win,

and well done to the U16 Marian swimmers for setting a new record for the 4X50m Butterfly! In a closely contested competition, Ambrose were thrilled to win the Spirit Cup!



Pre-school First Term Fun

Our littlest girls have settled in beautifully, and have enjoyed making new friends. Their progress has been so exciting to see!



Grade 7 Leaders

There was great excitement amongst our Grade 7s when their Leadership Portfolios were announced early this term. We wish our future leaders well as they embrace these new opportunities to encourage and inspire their Prep sisters, in our Maris Stella Servant Leadership style. Pictured are the Sports and Cultural Captains. From left: Ryleigh Rutherford (Hockey), Nyiko Mathe (Netball), Tannah Smith (Cross Country), Jaime Robinson (Athletics), Robyn Aaron (Athletics), Robyn Aaron (Swimming), Raeven Phillips (Debating), Zenala Mbonambi (Tennis).



Sports and Cultural Captains. From left: Ryleigh Rutherford (Hockey), Nyiko Mathe (Netball), Tannah Smith (Cross Country), Jaime Robinson (Athletics), Robyn Aaron (Athletics), Robyn Aaron (Swimming), Raeven Phillips (Debating), Zenala Mbonambi (Tennis).

Grade 6 Market Day

Our Grade 6s treated us to a most exciting market day, as they put their entrepreneurial skills into practice! From decadent doughnuts, scrumptious samosas and perfect pizzas to raffles, slime, stickers, squishies and so much more, we shopped up a storm while lessons were learned and fun was had!



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



Grade 8 Retreat

The Grade 8 classes of 2018 recently went on an overnight retreat to Camp Jonathan where they had the opportunity to bond together as a new grade, cement friendships as well as consolidate their relationship with Jesus Christ. They learned the value of "retreating" from their busy lives, and the importance of nurturing their spiritual life by embracing the theme "My Journey with God." Together with their class teachers and Religion teacher, they appreciated time for reflection, group work and fun activities. The girls enjoyed the beautiful surrounds of Camp Jonathan, the delicious meals which were provided, and all the singing and laughter! Thank you Mrs Bodley, Mrs Burgess, Mrs Miskey, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Pearson for taking such good care of our girls!



Grade 6 Visit to IThemba Lethu

Our Grade 6s recently visited the organisation that they support as a grade, iThemba Lethu. It is a children's home and adoption facility that provides a safe and comfortable surrounding for the children who live there to grow up in. iThemba Lethu means, "I have a destiny" and the home seeks to impact the lives of children whose futures are at risk. The girls got the opportunity to learn how to care for and interact with little children and babies during the visits and learned more about compassion, friendship and love. Thank you to our Grade 6 families for your generous support thus far.



Athletics

We are extremely proud of Carly Smith, who represented KZN in the South African Schools Athletics Championships in the 1200m recently. We also congratulate Caitlyn Gooding and Jemma Smith for being selected for the Umlazi Team, and Hayley Wasserman and Ella-Rose Gass for their selection to the Durban Central Athletics Team.



Synchronised Swimming

We congratulate Mia Blythe, who has been selected by Swimming South Africa to represent the South African Synchronised Swimming Team that will compete at the Mediterranean Cup in Spain in July this year. She will also be competing in the South African Nationals in Port Elizabeth this April. Good luck Mia!



Karate

Chloe Pillay, Aimee Dunn and Nyska Jagasur were recently selected for the KZN Team to attend the South African National Karate Championships in Johannesburg.

The girls performed extremely well and have been awarded Certificates of Achievement for their excellent results.



Dance

Two Break-Thru Dance Academy members from Maris Stella recently participated in the World Lyrical Dance Competition. This prestigious international dance competition ranks dancers receiving places on a World Ranking Table. We are proud to announce that Mia Francke achieved a 1st position in her category and was promoted to Level 2, Dayna Miller achieved 3rd place in her category. Congratulations girls!



Softball

Congratulations to Samishka Chetty, and Caitlyn Gooding who were awarded Half Colours for their selection for the KZN U15B Softball Team, and Jenna O'Brien who was awarded Full Colours for being selected for the KZN U15A Softball Team.



Tennis

We are so proud of Kaitlyn Ramduth, who has recently returned from the African Schools Tennis Championships, held in Zimbabwe. The South African girls team came second, defeating Zimbabwe, Botswana, and losing closely to Madagascar, while the South African boys team came first. Both South African teams have qualified for the final event to be held in Morocco in September.



Waterpolo

Our High School Water Polo team recently competed at the Thomas More College Invitational Water Polo Tournament against schools from across the country. Our girls played exceptionally well and finished 3rd overall. This is an incredible achievement and we're so proud of this team! We further congratulate Isabella Halstead and Ilse Soutey for receiving Certificates of Recognition for being selected for the KZN U13A Waterpolo Team; Kaylyn Asgeir-Nielsen for being awarded Full Colours for her selection to the KZN U15A Waterpolo Team; and Megan Lombard and Georgia Erskine for being awarded Full Colours for their selection to the KZN U16A Waterpolo Team. We are also very proud to re-award Full Colours to Cerin Vaughan for her selection to the KZN U18 Waterpolo Team.





Netball

Our Netball teams have had an amazing season, with 5 of our teams winning medals in their respective Action Netball Leagues! Our 1st Team won Bronze Medals, our U14A Team won Silver Medals, our U13A Team also won Silver Medals while our U13B Team won Gold in their League, and our U10A team won Gold Medals, having remained unbeaten this season! Congratulations to both our girls and their phenomenal coaches!



Hockey

Our Hockey Teams have played so well this season and we especially congratulate our U16A Indoor Team, who were unbeaten this season, and our U14A Indoor Hockey Team who won their League this term! Our 1st Hockey Team enjoyed some challenging opposition in the Spar Tournament last weekend, and played extremely well, winning 2 matches, losing 2 and drawing 1. Our U13 Outdoor Hockey Team also recently took part in the TWC U13 Tournament and achieved very good results against some of the top hockey playing schools, with 3 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses. Well done girls!



Lifesaving

Congratulations to Tatum Botha and Tannah Smith who have been selected for the KZN U14 Surf and Stillwater Lifesaving Team to participate at the Inter-Provincial Lifesaving Championship to be held in May 2018.



Congratulations to Mackenzie van Niekerk, Jaimee Coxwell, Aimee Dunn and Megan Grout for receiving Certificates of Recognition for their selection to the KZN Springboard Diving Team.



Diving