



The Anchor

Issue 1

March 2019

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

I am so grateful to you all for the energy and enthusiasm with which you have embraced this busy term. There have been so many exciting events that have taken place, from beginning our 120th birthday celebrations, to our Top 10 and D&D Galas, a special Mass for Lent, picnics, excursions, Movie Night and our fantastic high school production of Sister Act to name a few, and your warm participation and support has been so appreciated.

To our committed staff, thank you for your dedication and care in ensuring our year has begun as smoothly as possible. We bid a fond farewell to Beth Prothero, who is retiring after 38 years at Maris Stella, Michelle Thackwray who is leaving to take up a new position at Glenwood Boy's High School, and Rose Matheson who kindly stepped in to assist us with Grade 8 Afrikaans this term. We wish you all every happiness, and thank you for your many contributions to our Maris Stella family over the years.

To our Grade 9s, you have a little more time to continue your training and preparations for your Touchstone experience, and to practise fitting all your belongings into your backpack! I am so looking forward to sharing this special time with you all.

I trust that you will have a relaxing, happy holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you back next term.

With warm regards
Joan Schmidt



Back to School 2019



Although it seems like a lifetime ago, it was only 10 weeks ago that we welcomed our Maris Stella family back to school! With the theme Wizard of Oz, we were reminded that "there's no place like home", and all the smiles, hugs, laughter, and even a few tears, made us grateful to be back in our beautiful school home. It was the

first day of "big school" for our Grade 1s, and we were also happy to welcome our Grade 8s, the Class of 2023, to Maris Stella, as well as our new littlest girls, our Grade 000s.



Our Matrics also enjoyed their last first day back to school, and spent some time with our Grade 8s, mentoring them and introducing them to high school.





D&D Galas

We are so proud of the incredible spirit and determination displayed by our team swimmers at this year's D&D Galas. Our High School swimmers excelled in the Girls' A League Gala, with a phenomenal 4th position, our best D&D performance to date, with our U15s sharing the top spot with Our Lady of Fatima for the U15 Trophy! Our cheerleaders and all our High School supporters are also to be congratulated on their inspirational war cry, and for their tireless support of the team.

Our Prep team swimmers took part in the Girls' A League D&D Gala, and despite not achieving the results they were hoping for, coming 10th, they never stopped doing their best. Our Prep B team did very well in the Co-Educational D League D&D Gala, swimming to an excellent 4th position. We were promoted to this league for the first time this year and our girls swam so well. We are very proud of all of our swimmers, and of our enthusiastic cheering squad and Prep girls for their passionate support.

A big thank you to our dedicated and hard working coaches, Mrs Williams, Mrs Kidd, and Mrs Futter, and to our supportive parents.



Movie Night

A big thank you to our Maris Stella Family for so enthusiastically supporting our Movie Night on Friday! Despite the spot of drizzle, it was so lovely to be able to enjoy a fun family evening together. Thank you to our hard working Parents' Association for all their efforts in putting such a lovely event together for us.



Pre-school Picnic

We had such a lovely evening at our Pre-school Family Supper Picnic early in the term, with perfect weather for a change! The girls had the most wonderful time having their faces painted and then being entertained by our amazing Grade 12 Mentors. Happy memories were made by all who attended – thank you to everyone for making it such a special event.



Grade 1 Easter Fun

Our Grade 1 girls enjoyed some Easter fun at the end of the term, and loved dressing up in civvies, accessorising with beautiful Easter hats that they had made. They also loved searching for Easter eggs, and had a hot cross bun tasting, making bar graphs to see which bun was the tastiest, and which had the most pieces of fruit.



Top 10 Gala

Congratulations to each and every one of our swimmers who took part in our Top 10 Gala. It was a privilege to witness such determination and commitment, as was demonstrated not only in the spirit of the evening, but also in the excellent results that were achieved. Thank you to our Guests of Honour, Mr and Mrs McAlister, and Mr and Mrs Dingley, and to Mrs Scott and our coaches for all their efforts in organising this exciting event.

Well done to our deserving Victrix winners:

Junior Victrix Ludorum: Mila Stirton

Prep Victrix Ludorum: Madison Stewart

Senior Victrix Ludorum: Robyn Aaron



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



Grade 2 excursion to African Bird of Prey Sanctuary

Our Grade 2s so enjoyed their outing to the African Bird Of Prey Sanctuary in Pietermaritzburg recently. The girls had a great day learning about the various birds of prey we have in our country, in preparation for the second term's bird theme.



Grade 6 Market Day

Our Grade 6s really pulled out all the stops for their Market Day, with a wide range of delicious snacks, including pizza, donuts, samoosas, brownies, and popcorn, as well as fun accessories, beautiful succulents, slime, and so much more! Their heavenly homemade milkshakes were also very popular. Well done to all our girls for their efforts, and their donation of 10% of their profit towards their class charity is greatly appreciated.



Prep Camp Out

On Friday 1 March, our Grades 4 to 7 girls braved "the great outdoors" as they camped out on our school field overnight! There was great excitement as tents were pitched (thank you Moms and Dads for your help!), and the girls so enjoyed an evening of fun and games with their friends and mentors. A huge thank you to our dedicated Prep teachers and Matric mentors for looking after our girls and facilitating such a memorable night!



Grade 8 Retreat

Our Grade 8s so enjoyed their retreat to Camp Jonathan early this term, where they embraced the opportunity to get to know one another more, forming new friendships and deepening their relationship with God. The theme "Walk with God" opened up discussions about choosing a destination, fellow companions and guides who can show the way on our journey. Thank you to Mrs Ivins, Mrs Bodley and the Grade 8 teachers for all their help in putting this special event together.



Sister Act

We are so incredibly proud of the hard working cast of our High School Production, *Sister Act the musical*, for treating us to such an outstanding show! Their talent, energy and dedication shone through all of their performances, and transported the audience on an exciting, feel-good trip to Philadelphia, at the height of Disco, thigh-high boots and bell bottoms, where an aspiring Diva, played flawlessly by Head Girl Ukhona Ngongo, accidentally witnessed a murder and is forced into protective custody in a convent. Our grateful thanks to the committed cast and crew, Mrs Bodley for creating the set, Mrs du Plessis and Mrs Van Blerk for their musical genius, and especially Miss Smit for her gifted direction of this inspirational production.



Valentine's Day

We really embraced our "we heart Maris Stella" motto on this special day dedicated to love! Celebrations began with a warm welcome to school from our PR Portfolio, including music, donuts and bubbles, and continued with themed lessons, picnics, beautiful art creations and a fantastic concert organised by our Cultural Portfolio. Our Grade 8s also received roses from their Matric mentors.



Grade 7 Leadership

Our Grade 7s have had a busy term, serving our school and their phase in particular, with kindness, grace and enthusiasm in their various portfolios. They so enjoyed their leadership course bootcamp held at Giba Gorge MTB Park, early in the term, where they honed their teamwork skills and encouraged and uplifted each other during some tough challenges!



Debating



We are exceptionally proud of Shristi Sooklal, who was selected for the South African Schools Junior Debating Team. Shristi attended the National Schools Debating Championships in Johannesburg in December last year as part of the KZN Schools A Team, who placed 2nd overall after a gruelling 8 round tournament. Shristi is one of only 5 scholars

from KZN to make the 16 strong South African Schools Team, and we wish her all the best for when she competes at the World Schools Debating Competition in Thailand later this year.

Tennis

Kaitlyn Ramduth recently represented South Africa at the CAT/ITF Zonal Individual and Team Championships in Namibia, and placed 6th in Africa in the individual event. In the team event, Kaitlyn played as the number 1 player for South Africa, and helped South Africa win the Championship and progress to the final event in Tunisia later this year. Kaitlyn is currently ranked 14 in Africa's U14 age group, an outstanding achievement especially since she is only 12 years old. She ranked in the Top 10 in South Africa, and was also recently chosen to attend a National High Performance training camp in Pretoria for South Africa's Top 10 ranked players. Kaitlyn was a finalist in the U14 Doubles and Mixed Doubles at the Growthpoint 8 Western Province Tournament in Cape Town, and took part in the KZN Mini Series at Westridge Tennis Stadium, where she won the girls U16 Singles title.



Equestrian



Tarryn Jackson, in Grade 12, placed first in the ESP Summer Championships, an equestrian show held at the Shongweni showgrounds last month.

Tarryn jumped 60cm on her horse, Shining Empire, and had a clear round, then went on to win the jump-off. Well done Tarryn!

Business Studies

Our phenomenal team of Grade 11 Business Studies girls placed first in the Vega Vibe Challenge recently. This is an annual inter-school brand experience at Vega, where each team is tasked with the development of a full brand campaign for a youth brand, and are required to incorporate elements such as design, brand and business. The Maris Stella Teams, consisting of Demi Coskey, Bayanda Gumede, Ashley Le Roux, Dayna Miller, Tia Munsamy, Kyra Murray, Kundanika Somasundram, Shriyaa Sooklal, Chloë Van den Berg, Hayley Wasserman and Langelihle Zama worked ex-



ceptionally well as a team, developing specific marketing strategies in order to heighten brand awareness of this youth brand in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The girls had to break away into two teams in order to come up with their final marketing strategies. The team that won their final presentation consisted of Ashley Le Roux, Tia Munsamy, Kyra Murray, Shriyaa Sooklal and Langelihle Zama. Both Business Studies teams truly represented Maris Stella as a unit and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

Our thanks to Ms Dewar and Mrs van Blerk for all their dedication and inspiration.

Lifesaving

Congratulations to Tatum Botha for an outstanding performance in the South African Open Water Lifesaving Championships recently, winning the Girls U15 Competitor Trophy, and placing 1st in the U19 Swim, the Run Swim Run and the Board Race. In the KZN Lifesaving Championships, Tatum was crowned the U19 Iron Lady, and in her U15 age group, received gold medals for 1st place in the Surf Swim and Run-Swim-Run, a silver medal for second place on the Ski and bronze medal for 3rd place in the Board event. In the team events, her club Umhlanga Rocks won the Taplin Relay, Rescue Tube Rescue, Board Relay, Board Rescue and came second in the Ski Relay.



Karate

Nyska Jagasur again won double Gold medals, for Individual Kata and Individual Kumite in her age division, at the KZN Karate Championships, earning her KZN Full Colours, and will be representing

the province at Nationals in Cape Town.

Chloé Pillay also participated the KZN Karate Championships, winning a gold medal in the Girls 14-17 Team Kata, Bronze in both Girls 16-17 Individual Kata and Individual Kumite. She will also represent KZN at the KSA National Championships in March.

Aimee Dunn took part in the KZN (JKA) Karate Championships, competing in the Novice Age 13 Purple Belt Division and receiving a Bronze Medal for Kata and Gold Medal for Kumite. She has been selected for the KZN (JKA) Karate Team to compete at the SA (JKA) National Karate Championships in Johannesburg in May 2019.

Waterpolo

We are very proud of Isabella Hislop, who was selected as a non travelling reserve for the South African School's U16 Water Polo Team. Isabella was the only player from KZN who was selected for the team.

**ATHLETICS**

Four of our girls took part in the KZN Athletics Championships recently, as part of the Umlazi District Team. Con-



gratulations to Caitlyn Gooding who placed 4th in the Girls U16 800m final, to Alyssa and Jemimah Gass who placed 3rd and 5th respectively in the Girls U15 1500m, and to Ella-Rose Gass who came first in the Girls U12 1200m!

TERM 1 AWARD WINNERS