



# The Anchor

Issue 2

June 2017

Faith, Family, Future

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

We are blessed to have such a committed School Family who continue to serve our school so faithfully. This busy second term has been filled with exciting functions and events that were made possible by the efforts and contributions of parents, staff and of course our girls. Our fabulous Matric Dance, the Junior Primary Production of Aladdin, Touchstone, our many retreats, Pre-school Praise and Mothers' and Fathers' celebrations, and our ever popular Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe - I am so grateful to you all for everything you have done to make our school such a happy place to be.

To our staff members going on long leave, I wish you an enjoyable, restful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you back with fully recharged batteries! I would like to especially thank Mrs Rose Matheson for the love, care and support she has given to everyone she has come into contact with at Maris Stella over the past 47 years. Rose has touched so many lives during her time here, and we will greatly miss her warmth and sense of humour, not to mention, her delicious food.

Whether you are going away or staying in chilly Durban these holidays, I wish you a safe, peaceful, relaxing and happy time spent with family and friends. As we were reminded in our Final Assembly, savour the moment.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday.

Warm regards  
Joan Schmidt



## Celebrating 118 years of Faith and Family

The 22 May was awash with celebrations throughout the school as we gave thanks for our many blessings over the past century. It was on this day in 1899, that the vision of a group of Holy Family Sisters came to light, when Maris Stella, Star of the Sea, was officially opened. While much has changed, the legacy left to us by the Sisters, of faith and family values, and the knowledge that we can make a difference for the future of our community, society and environment, remains our vision.



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



### Touchstone

The courage, determination, and “mind-over-matter” attitudes seen this year are testimony to the strength that this Grade 9 year boasts.

The hike provided many opportunities for the girls to get to know other people in the grade, who possibly had been mere acquaintances before. They were able to support one another using words of encouragement, by sharing their meagre food resources, or even carrying a friend’s pack.

They had time to savour the silence. And they had time to sing and tell hilarious stories. They even had time to put their creative cooking skills to use with the most limited of ingredients.

The hike definitely makes one aware of the many privilege’s our modern and comfortable homes offer us. We all realized how little we needed to survive and that cluttering our lives with possessions is not always helpful! In fact, their advice to next year’s Grade 9s is: pack what you think you need and then empty half your bag.

The Community Outreach was carried out at three schools; Camanga, Reichenau and Thukeyana, as well as Pevensy Place, a home for adults with special needs. Each of these places provided challenges for the Grade 9s, but without exception, all the girls rose to meet these challenges and in the process, not only grew on a personal level, but also appreciated their own privileges in being healthy, well educated and cared for within a family.

Our girls had to struggle, both physically and emotionally, but they survived. They didn’t give up. They persevered and completed the hike and learnt that they are stronger than they imagined. They can keep going when every part of them wants to give up. They demonstrated resilience and an ability to cope with strenuous challenges. We are so proud of our Grade 9s!



### Grade 10 Retreat to Camp El Olam

The Grade 10 girls enjoyed a wonderful retreat at Camp El Olam on “The Theology of the Body”. The theme encompassed relationships, love, dating, and marriage. It was so encouraging to see the commitment, interest and enthusiasm with which the Grade 10 girls approached these discussions and this retreat. The teaching and reflection time was well-balanced with times of fun, and the girls left refreshed, with renewed commitments, as well as a fresh outlook on their relationships.



**Grade 11 Retreat to Teen Ranch**

Our Grade 11s experienced a wonderful retreat at Teen Ranch, Port Edward, bonding as a grade as well as experiencing personal growth. There was something for everyone with physical activities, a leadership programme and meaningful reflections. Well done to all of the girls for their enthusiasm, and for embracing this retreat and its many opportunities.



**Grade 7 excursion to Hlatikulu Crane and Wetland Sanctuary**

Our Grade 7s loved their informative and very active two night excursion to the Hlatikulu Crane and Wetland Sanctuary, near Giants Castle in the Drakensberg. In their own words: "It was cold, hot and exhausting but wonderful, amazing and adventurous!". "We united as one group to face any obstacles, learning more about teamwork and how to support others around us." "I cherish every moment I spent laughing and having fun!" "The landscape was so beautiful, it was almost unreal." "The challenges helped me to conquer my fears, while having fun and spending time with my friends."



**Grade 12 Retreat to Camp Anerley**

The Grade 12s so enjoyed their retreat at Camp Anerley, with the theme "Our Life Dance with God". They learned that the right partner, Jesus Christ, is important in their Dance of Life and will help them with the steps leading to everlasting happiness. Many wonderful memories were made and the girls all appreciated the opportunity to relax and enjoy the time away from their schedule so that they could deepen their relationships with each other as well as with God.



**Grade 3 excursion to Seula**

Our Grade 3s were bursting with excitement as they boarded the bus bound for Seula on their very first overnight excursion with their school friends! Their 2 days were filled with fun, as they ziplined, swam in icy water, played in the mud, rock climbed, sang and danced around the campfire, and made happy memories!



### Celebrating our Moms and Dads

Our Pre-school, Junior Primary and Prep Phases have held a number of celebrations in honour of their incredible Moms and Dads, to say thank you in some small way for the countless ways in which they show their love to us every day. From the Pre-school Mothers' Day Teddy Bear's Picnic and Dads and Daughters' evening, to the JP Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad, and the Prep Mothers' Day Mad Hatters Tea Party, the girls so enjoyed spending some special time with their parents.



### Annie!

At the end of last term, we were treated to the fabulous High School Production, Annie Warbucks. The audience was taken on a trip to 1930s New York, joining Annie and her fellow orphans in a fun-filled, foot-tapping adventure in this well-loved, family favourite. A big thank you to Mrs Strauss, Miss Smit, and the hard working cast and crew for such a fantastic show!



### Aladdin Trouble!

We are so proud of our Junior Primary actresses, who treated their parents and grandparents to the most spectacular production of "Aladdin Trouble". It was truly "a pantomime like no other", alive with excitement, colour and song, and it was so beautiful to watch them shine on stage! Thank you so much to our hardworking teachers for all your efforts.



**Matric Dance**

Our beautiful Matrics were treated to an evening of glamour and elegance at their long awaited, highly anticipated, 2017 Matric Dance! Transported to Paris for the evening, they danced beneath the Eiffel Tower, under a breathtaking starry sky. Thank you to Mrs Vrey, Mrs Cholwich, Mrs Ward, Mrs Ireland and an incredible team of moms for making this special evening truly unforgettable.



**Pre-school Praise**

Our Pre-school girls reminded us how to follow Jesus in their beautiful Praise service in the Chapel. "My children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)



**Grade 5 Market Day**

The Grade 5s treated us to an outstanding Market Day on our tree-lined terrace recently. With a huge variety of items on sale, from fluffy toys, keyrings, fidget spinners and stationery, to gourmet cupcakes, waffles, donuts, rotis and much more, many happy shoppers were spoiled for choice, while valuable lessons in economics were learned by the Grade 5s. Thanks also to our parents for always supporting and encouraging your girls so warmly.

**Grade 2 Outing to Priority Zone**

On 11 May, our Grade 2 girls went on an outing to the Priority Zone, a hidden gem in the middle of our busy city. This unique roof top garden taught the girls so much about sustainable living, recycling and caring for the environment. It was also a perfect fit for our school theme this year, *Laudato Si*, caring for our common home, Mother Earth. The girls left feeling very excited about starting their own sustainable gardens at home.



**Term 2 Mass**



On 25 May, we celebrated our Mass for the Second Term. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and worship as a school family. We linked our Virtue for this term, Responsibility, with 'Laudato Si', to create the theme of Our Place, Our Planet, Our Responsibility. As stewards of God, we have a responsibility to leave a planet that is healthy and inhabitable by all species. We were reminded that we all need to be more responsible in the way we live and become aware that each action leaves a mark. Just like a footprint on the beach, so our everyday actions leave a carbon footprint which damages the earth. We are called to walk softly on our Mother, Earth.



**Hooked on Books**

Our Grade R, Junior Primary and Prep girls so enjoyed the performance by the amazingly talented "Hooked on Books" team this term! We always look forward to our annual visit from this unique educational theatre company, who bring books to life in such innovative, comical, interactive and exciting ways!



**Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe**

Our much loved Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe was the place to be in the last week of school! A big thank you to the talented and efficient Lolly Chisholm and her wonderful mom, as well as the many moms who so willingly donated items and gave of their time to serve the hungry hordes over the past few days. It was so great welcoming so many Old Girls back home as well!



**I ♥ Maris Stella Market**  
**Saturday 29 July 2017**  
**11am to 4pm**

♥ Fun Rides ♥ Craft Market ♥  
 ♥ Tea Garden ♥ Food Stalls ♥

Buy your wristband @R120 from the Bursar's office for unlimited rides!

Contact [chudson@marisstella.co.za](mailto:chudson@marisstella.co.za) for further information

### Highlighting some of our Maris Stella Super Stars



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

#### Certificates of Recognition:

Olivia Elliot (Central Durban U12A Hockey Team), Cara Message (KZN Swimming Team, Central Durban U13A Hockey Team), Makayla Paton (Central Durban U13A Hockey Team, KZN Lifesaving), Casey Kesaris (Central Durban U13B Hockey Team), Rebecca Fouquereaux (Central Durban U13B Hockey Team), Saskya Ramdas (Umlazi U13 Hockey Team), Ella Wium (Umlazi U14B Hockey Team), Zinhle Sithole (Umlazi U14B Hockey Team), Bayanda Gumede (Umlazi U16B Hockey Team), Mia Vlotman (Umlazi Netball Team), Carly Smith (Umlazi Netball Team), Tannah Smith (KZN U12A Hockey Team), Isabella Halstead (KZN U13A Hockey Team, KZN Lifesaving), Sarah Randelhoff (KZN U14 Action Netball Team), Kaitlyn Ramduth (South Africa U13 Tennis Team), Aimee Dunn (South Africa Karate Team)

#### Scroll:

Lauren Proctor (Umlazi U16A Hockey Team)

#### Half Colours:

Tegan Sinclair (KZN U19B Softball Team), Tracey Powell (KZN U19B Softball Team), Nandipa Khubone (Overall Winner Best Speaker Competition)

#### Full Colours:

Gabriella Alessandri (KZN Karate Team), Cerin Vaughan (KZN U18 Water Polo Team), Amy Randelhoff (KZN U16 Netball Team), Courtney Stuart (KZN U19 Softball Team), Tamryn Palani (KZN Swimming Team)

#### Honours:

Teegan Hardwick (South African Stillwater and Surf Life Saving)

#### Action Netball

We are so proud of our netball teams, who have had such a phenomenal season! Congratulations to our U14A and U11A Netball teams, who were the overall Gold Medal winners for their respective age group in the Action Netball League! The U14 team championed their League all through the season, not losing a single match. Our 1st Team, U12A Team, U12B Team and U13A Team also played exceptionally well and came second in their Leagues, winning Silver Medals, whilst our U16A girls narrowly lost in the Bronze Medal final. Well done to our players for your hard work and determination, and thank you to our dedicated coaches for all your efforts.

