



The Anchor

Issue 2

June 2019

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls,

The second academic term is always one interrupted by public holidays and exams and as a result it demands a degree of organisation and flexibility from both teachers and the girls to stick to routines and to cover the work required. The disruptions this term have had a significant impact on our matric pupils in particular and I take this opportunity to thank the Matric teachers for being so willing to work with the girls on Saturdays and during the first week of the holidays.

When you read through this edition of The Anchor you will no doubt be amazed at all that has happened and been achieved during this term – we certainly do live very busy, exciting lives! However, an absolute highlight of this term for everyone must be our 120th Birthday Mass and celebrations held on 22 May. I am so sure that all of our girls will remember the day as a stand out day in their school life.

Today we said goodbye to two of our teachers from the Religious Education Department. Mrs Lucy Ivins will be joining her husband in Denmark where they will be working for Youth for Christ. Mrs Jenna Jones Bate will be spending more time with her family. Both of these teachers have made a significant impact on the lives of the pupils who have been privileged to have been taught by them, and we thank them for all that they have done at Maris Stella.

I wish each Maris Stella family a happy, safe holiday.

With warm regards
Joan Schmidt



Happy 120th Birthday to us!

Happy Birthday Maris Stella! On 22 May 120 years ago, our beautiful Star of the Sea opened its doors for the first time, thanks to the vision and faith of our founder, Father Pierre Bienvenu Noailles and an inspired handful of intrepid sisters. In our beautiful birthday Mass, Cardinal Napier reminded us that God is not finished with us yet, and brought to mind the wisdom of Pope John Paul, who said that we should remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and embrace the future with confidence as we realise that God is in control. Our theme of love, grow, serve suggests that when we are filled with the love of God, we grow as followers of Christ, which inspires us to serve and connect to others. Our love is then transformed into service - to God, our school, our community, our planet and our own destiny. It is through service that we become the person God wants us to be and become co-creators with God in building His Kingdom here on Earth. We are so blessed to share this momentous occasion with Cardinal Napier, Father Peter, Father Sean, all our staff, parents, special guests, Old Girls and current Maris girls.



Stella



More Birthday Celebrations!

A big thank you to our many moms who organised such beautiful and creative birthday cakes for each class, which were gratefully appreciated!



Matric Dance

Once upon a time on a cold winter's night, Maris Stella's beautiful Matric princesses were the heroines of their own winter fairy tale as they enjoyed an enchanted evening in their Centenary Hall, which had been magically transformed into a glittering winter wonderland. Special thanks to Mrs Vrey, Mrs Ward, Mrs Cholwich, Mrs Ireland and their incredible team, for all their hard work, faith and pixie dust!



Touchstone

"Touchstone - a ten-day hiking and community service experience that encouraged Grade 9 girls to step out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves mentally, physically and emotionally. It taught us who our real friends are and helped us make new ones. We learnt the power of team work and are prepared to face whatever the rest of high-school has to throw at us." (Shasthi Naidoo)

"I was really nervous about teaching at Touchstone because I worried that I wouldn't be able to connect with the children and if I would be able to teach them correctly. I quickly learnt that my fears were unfounded. The children were honestly so loving, accepting and kind. I immediately fell in love with a little girl called Aphiwe. She had a smile that could make the rain disappear. You really could just see how appreciative the children were after we gave them their little gifts. I was taken aback at how blessed we actually are. I'm so grateful for the opportunity I was given." (Chloe Morrow)

Thank you to our incredible staff members for taking such good care of our girls, especially Mrs Aaron for all her organisation. A big thank you to our generous sponsors, and to the many families who donated groceries, toys and equipment so willingly.



Grade 3 Overnight Excursion to Seula

Our Grade 3s loved their grand adventure to Seula this term! It was not easy to tell which part they enjoyed the most - the ziplining, swimming, developing their team-work skills with the obstacle course, the delicious food, the bus trip or the mandatory mud coating! "The best thing about memories is making them."



Grade 2 Book Character Dress Up Day

Our Grade 2s loved getting creative with their outfits on Book Character Dress Up Day! "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."



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



Grade 10 Retreat

The Grade 10s recently spent two nights at Camp El Olam, which provided the perfect setting

for their annual retreat. The girls explored the theme 'Created for Love'; looking at our creation and relationships with God, others and ourselves. This is always a special time away where the girls are able to reflect, refocus, and spend time bonding with their friends. The girls also had great fun doing an obstacle course, kayaking on the



dam and enjoying El Olam's famous hot chocolate around the bonfire!

**Grade 11 Retreat**

"There's a fire on the mountain! Fire! Fire!" - such was the anthem that we would learn to repeat over the course of our stay at Teen Ranch, Port Edward. And such was definitely appropriate as it captured the essence of not only our sparks of excitement as we grew closer to our peers, but also represented one of the many things that initiated this excitement, i.e. the campfire, around which we would often sing and laugh, well into the night.

Through various leadership activities, we had the opportunity to discover how we best contribute to our school and the broader community, as well as how to capitalize on these skills in order to create the true leaders we were destined to be. This retreat holds a special place in each of our hearts and will always be regarded as a stepping stone to the leaders that we eventually will become. (Shriyaa Sooklal)

Grade 12 Retreat

The Matrics of 2019 spent their final school retreat on the South Coast at Camp Anerly. "Transformed in God" allowed the girls to reflect how, over the years as Maris Stella girls, they have been transformed and are now ready to spread their wings and fly into the new phase of their lives. They enjoyed quiet reflection, group work, fun bonding time and spiritual reflection along with delicious food. It was a retreat that made many beautiful memories for all.

**Grade 5 Market Day**

Our Grade 5 Market Day was a sun-drenched, happy occasion filled with lots of tasty treats, fun crafts, exciting things to buy and enticing raffles. Our girls donated 10% of their profits to their Grade charity, the William Clark Gardens Children's Home.



Junior Primary Grandparents' Day Show

Our Junior Primary girls had so much fun performing their annual show "The Selfish Giant", and absolutely loved entertaining their moms, dads, siblings, grannies and grandpas! Thank you to our dedicated JP teachers for all the hard work that went into this incredible production, and well done to our girls for giving it their all on stage!



Celebrating our Moms

Father's Day Fun!

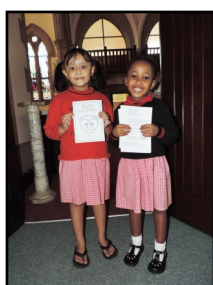
Our Pre-school, Junior Primary and Prep girls spent treasured time with their Moms on Friday 10 May, as they showed them how loved they are! With picnics, concerts, crafts and "spa treatments", our girls so enjoyed spoiling their moms and reminding them how special they truly are!

Our Pre-school girls had a wonderful evening with their Dads, and so enjoyed playing games and making crafts together. The JP girls and their Dads spent a fun morning making crafts together, while our Prep girls and their Dads loved their bingo and burger evening last week! Thank you Dads, for all that you do!



Pre-school Praise

In our very special Pre-school Praise in the chapel, our littlest girls reminded us that it's love that makes the world go round, to always let our light shine, and to keep joy in our hearts! Thank you to Father Peter and all the moms, dads, grannies and grandpas who joined us, and felt the love! "Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14



Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe

For the past 2 weeks, we've had tantalising aromas and waves of chatter and laughter coming from our Parlour Room and top verandah, as our Maris Biscuit Coffee Shoppe was frequented by our girls, parents, staff and many old girls! It's always so wonderful to welcome so many old girls back home, and they catch up over a cappuccino and slice of rainbow cake. How lucky we are to have such a treat to look forward to every year as we celebrate our birthday! Thank you to the many families who donated delicious baked goods, groceries and so willingly helped serve.



Oxbridge Academic Summer Programme

Wishing Tendai Mncibi, Grade 11, well as she travels to Harvard University in Boston during the holidays! Tendai was awarded a 50% Merit Scholarship through the Oxbridge Academic Summer Programme and will attend Academic Summer Programmes in Computer Science and App Design. Bayanda Gumede was awarded a 25% scholarship to study at the Sorbonne in Paris, but is unfortunately not able to attend.



It is an extremely prestigious scholarship to receive and we are very proud of both Tendai and Bayanda.

Grade 7 trip to Seula



Our Grade 7s enjoyed such an exciting and challenging 2 day excursion to Seula at the beginning of this term, learning more about themselves, each other, how to

overcome their fears and embrace lessons life teaches us, through working together and supporting each other.



French Exchange Students

We are delighted to be participating in a cultural exchange programme with a High School in Blois, France, for the very first time. Julia Tostee, Isla Wilson, and Madison Briant (Grade 10) have been paired up with French girls their age who live in the Loire Valley in the centre of France in a city called Blois, and attend Lycée Augustin Thierry High School. This is not only a wonderful opportunity to develop their conversational French, but to experience the culture, cuisine and everyday life in France. They will be staying with their host families for three weeks, from 21 June until 16 July, and their French partners will visit them in South Africa from 14 December 2019 to 4 January 2020. Jody Ribbink, Grade 11, is also participating in this exciting exchange programme, and will be staying with a host family on the West Coast of France, in a small town called Bretignolles-Sur-Mer.



Dance



Earlier this year, Tayla Morrow, Grade 12, competed in the South African Championship of Performing Arts Competition, as part of the KZN Performing Arts Team. She performed exceptionally well, winning 12 Medals (4 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze), and achieving over 91% for 5 of her 8 solos, against some very tough competition. For the second consecutive year, Tayla qualified to compete as part of the South African Team at the World Championships in Los Angeles later this year, but due to her commitment to her studies, is unable to attend.

Gymnastics

We are so proud to have so many of our girls selected for the KZN Rhythmic Gymnastics Team, after performing exceptionally well in the recent KwaZulu Natal Rhythmic Gymnastics Festival! Congratulations to Kate Simpson, Grade 6, Lareina Kiliswa, Grade 4, Farin Gild, Grade 4, Shiloh Joubert, Grade 3, and Aurya Rodrigues, Grade 1.



Lifesaving



Congratulations to Tatum Botha, Grade 9, who has been selected for the South African Team for the 2019 International Surf Rescue Challenge taking place in September at North Beach, Durban. Tatum is part of the Women's Youth Team and will be awarded her South African Colours for participating in this SA Team!

Swimming

Robyn Aaron, Grade 8, enjoyed an exceptionally successful South African Juniors Championships, making the finals in four events finals and medalling in three; She achieved a youth qualifying time to swim in the South African Senior



Nationals Championships where she represented KZN and swam exceptionally well.

Karate



We are exceptionally proud of Chloé Pillay (Grade 10) and Nyska Jagasur (Grade 6) who represented South Africa in the AUSEC Region 5 Karate Championships in Namibia. Chloé won a Silver medal for Cadet Female Team Kata, and Nyska was the only athlete at the Championships to win 2 Gold medals for both Individual Kata and Individual Kumite. Congratulations on these incredible results, Chloé and Nyska!

Hockey

Congratulations to Khanyisa Vena, Grade 8, who was selected for the KZN U14A Winter Games Team! We are also very proud of Zinhle Sithole, Grade 11, who has been selected for the KZN U16B Hockey team, and Megan Lombard, Grade 12, who was selected for the U18 KZN Hockey Team.



Netball

Congratulations to Olivia Tostée, Grade 9, who was selected for the U15 KZN Outdoor Netball Team.



Term 2 Award winners

Congratulations to all our very talented award winners this term! We are so proud to witness the rewards of your hard work and determination to succeed.

