



The Anchor

Issue 3

June 2016

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls,

As our second term draws to a close and I reflect on all the exciting events we have enjoyed, from the Matric Dance and culminating in our wonderful JP Show and Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe, I realise how much we have to be grateful for. We are blessed to have such a committed School Family of staff, parents and girls, who continue to serve our school so faithfully. Thank you to each and every one of you for all your contributions. Special mention must go to Lolly Chisholm, for once again giving so generously of her time and talents in our Coffee Shoppe.

Girls, I was very proud of the way in which you conducted yourselves during the stressful exam period. You displayed many of the Virtues we have been focussing on this year, including perseverance, tolerance and kindness. When you receive your reports, I urge you to take heed of your teachers comments, and return to school refreshed and energised to take on the third term with determination.

I'd like to wish those staff members who are leaving Maris Stella all the very best in your new ventures. Jacqui du Preez, Bianca French, Rozelle Munien and Justice Mudzova, thank you for giving so generously of your talents and experience—you will be missed!

Lastly, Bon Voyage to our Cultural Tourers, and safe travels as you discover the wonders of London, Paris and Rome. We look forward to reading your blog and hearing about your adventures on your return.

Wishing all our families a peaceful, safe and blessed holiday.

Warm regards,
Joan Schmidt

Mothers' Day celebrations

On 6 May, we shared some very special celebrations with our Moms, to say thank you to them and show them just how much we love them. Our Pre-school Moms enjoyed a concert and a Teddy Bears' Picnic, while our JP girls treated Moms to muffins, and made beautiful arts and crafts creations together. Our Prep girls paid tribute to their Moms with a special Praise and Worship Service and a delicious tea.



Giving thanks for 117 years of excellence!

On Friday 20 May, Maris Stella celebrated its 117th birthday with a very special Mass led by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, who celebrated his 75th birthday recently. Supported by Father Peter Lafferty and Father Sabelo Mkhize, Holy Trinity's Parish Priest, His Eminence reminded our girls and members of the congregation, that just as the caterpillar transforms into the beautiful butterfly, so God is not finished with us yet and we must open our hearts to His plans for us. Thank you to Mrs Bodley for arranging such a beautiful service for us.



More Birthday celebrations!

Our 117th birthday festivities began with a wonderful outdoor assembly organised by our dedicated Grade 12 Leaders! We also took this opportunity to sing happy birthday to our very special Principal, Mrs Schmidt, who celebrated her birthday on the 20 May as well.



Naturally, we also had to celebrate with cake....lots of cake! Thank you so much to our generous moms who supplied the delicious goodies.



Pre-school fun

Our Pre-school girls recently treated their parents to a beautiful Praise and Worship Service in our Chapel. They reminded us that with God's help, we can all be peacemakers, "brave and gentle, firm and kind."



Mr Rodrigues brought the Teacher / Scientist theme to life in a spectacular way, by conducting some exciting, interactive science experiments for our Pre-school girls. Sparkly elephant toothpaste, self-inflating balloons, home-made sherbet, and even Oobleck (is it a solid, a liquid or both?), our budding scientists were entranced.



Grade 2 isiZulu Festival

The Grade 2s were so excited to attend the Junior Primary isiZulu Festival held on Friday 27 May, where they enjoyed a morning celebrating the isiZulu culture, making friends from other schools, sampling traditional food and performing their songs that they have been practising for weeks! Thank you to our dedicated teachers, Ms Mbambo and Ms Hlongwa, for all your efforts in ensuring our little performers looked amazing and sang so beautifully.



Recipe for Success

Our Grade 8s participated in an engaging "Recipe for Success" workshop, which focused on ways to build relationships. Working together in groups, the girls enjoyed learning new things about one another.



Grade 7 Leadership Day



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



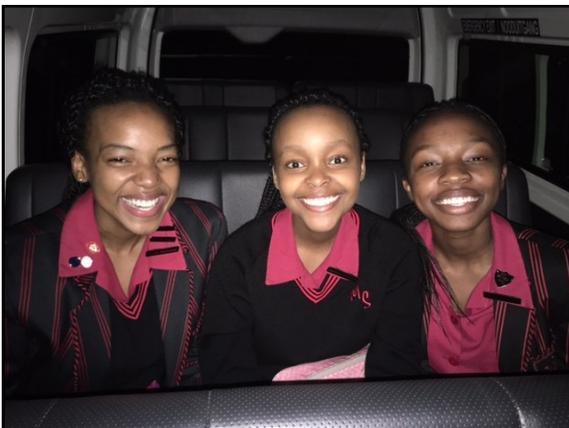
BDO Quiz

Our BDO team participated in the finals of the 2016 BDO Schools Quiz Challenge and did incredibly well, tying for 4th place out of 72 teams, a mere 5 points behind the winners! Congratulations to Rachel Herrington, Cathy Harrison, Jamie Gertenbach and Laura Herman on this excellent achievement.



Best Speaker Competition

Last month, three of our talented Grade 11s, Mvelo Nzimande, Nandipa Khubone and Qondisa Sibeko, participated in the "Best Speaker" Competition held at Westville Boys' High School. Qondisa progressed to the final and was awarded Runner Up for her speech entitled "I need a hero". She was also voted Best Speaker by the audience. Well done to all three ladies, who worked incredibly hard and delivered excellent speeches!



Maris Stella Maestros!

Well done to Irene An (Grade 4) and Hannah Dix (Grade 6), who excelled in their ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) Piano exams recently. Irene passed Piano Grade 4 and Hannah her Piano Grade 1 exam, both achieving distinctions!



English Olympiad Finalist!

Congratulations to Sarah Herrington (Grade 12), for placing in the Top 15 candidates of the 2016 English Olympiad! Sarah has been invited to attend the National Schools' Festival in Grahamstown in July, where the winner of the English Olympiad will be announced during a prestigious Prize-giving ceremony.

Drawing over 8000 entries per year from learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12, this national English competition is a joint initiative of the South African Council for English Education and the Grahamstown Foundation. It aims to 'encourage learners to develop and express valuable opinions as part of the conversation that is needed to build a nation of critical thinkers.'



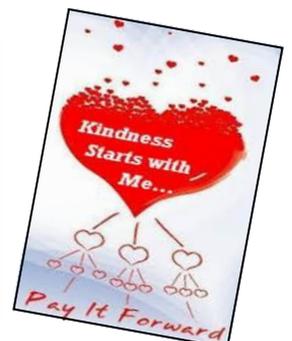
Vocal Artistry

Congratulations to Dhenishta Chetty (Grade 10), who was selected to be among the vocalists recording the East Coast Radio Youth Day song, aired on Thursday 16 June. You will also be hearing her voice on a regular basis on East Coast Radio singing the East Coast Radio jingle.

Some time ago, Dhenishta performed at the Grand White Concert held at the Botanical Gardens. Attended by over 2700 people, Dhenishta sang "Titanium" by Sia and "Hold my hand" by Jess Glynne.



Our June Virtue, Kindness: "Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." Proverbs 3:3.



Hockey

In the last game of the 2016 Outdoor Hockey season against Crawford La Lucia, our 1st Team went out in fine style with a well deserved 1-0 win.

Well done to every player for displaying such commitment, determination and passion on the hockey field! A big thank you to our dedicated coaches for sharing your skills and experience, and encouraging your teams to give of their best.



Karate

Congratulations to Emma-Leigh Chisholm, for being selected to be part of the South African JKA Karate team, which has been invited to the World Championships in Ireland next year. Emma-Leigh has also qualified to be a KZN Judge.



Netball

Well done to all our Outdoor Netball teams on such a successful season. From the U8s to our 1st Team, they not only achieved some exceptional results but also demonstrated great sportsmanship, commitment and teamwork. Thank you to our dedicated coaches for all your support as well.



Artistic Gymnastics

Congratulations to Joanne Gersbach (Grade 7) and Jaimee Coxwell (Grade 5), who shone in the KZN High Performance Artistic Gymnastics Competition on 4 June. Joanne placed 1st in KZN for Level 7-12 years and under, while Jaimee placed 1st in KZN for Level 7-10 years and under! Both Joanne and Jaimee have been selected to represent KZN at the upcoming Artistic Gymnastics National Championships in July.



Maris Stella Old Girl News

Maris Stella's Class of '96 celebrated their 20 year reunion recently, organised by Trisha Sandeman, Head Girl in 1996.



Frances Currie

We were privileged to have a visit from Frances Williams (nee Currie) from our Class of 2005, who recently starred as Cinderella in Kickstart's "Into The Woods". A specialist singing teacher at the Guilford School of Acting in the UK, Frances shared some of her insights and experiences with us, as well as some helpful advice for girls planning a career in the performing arts.



Jamie Chisholm

When not helping her mom out in our Marie Biscuit Coffee Shoppe, this Class of 2011 graduate is studying for her Honours in Media and Culture at UKZN. While coming first in class every year of her undergrad degree, BA Corporate Communications, Jamie also played 1st Team Hockey for Varsity College, and was selected for the KZN Mynas Womens' Hockey Team.



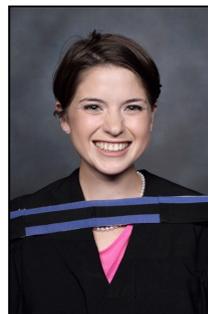
Anna van Dyk

Mrs Schmidt recently received this wonderful letter from Anna van Dyk, who was Head Girl in 2010.

Dear Mrs Schmidt,
I wanted to send a note to tell you that today I submitted my final course work assignment of my Masters degree. From now until August, I will be working on my dissertation and, fingers crossed, I will have an MSc in Literature and Modernity by the end of this year.



This thank you is, perhaps, a little premature, seeing as I don't have the degree fully just yet, but as the largest part of it falls behind me I felt compelled to send a thank you to the staff of Maris Stella. I truly believe that I would not be completing this huge challenge were it not for the foundation I received at that school.



I am so grateful for every mentor and teacher I had during my twelve years spent there. For every person who encouraged me, patiently taught me, inspired me and pushed me, I owe much of this Masters - indeed, much of my life up until now - to them. I think especially of the passionate women such as Mrs Brook-Hart, Mrs Ziegler and Mrs Hurly who fuelled my passion for creative writing and English literature. I have based all my life decisions on this foundation, and I would like to pass on a very big thank you to all of them. I hope that things with you and the school are going well. I think of Maris Stella often, and wish her and all who belong to the family all the best.
Warmest regards
Anna

Maxine Meier-Mattern

After matriculating in 2012, Maxine enrolled at UCT for a BSc in Property Studies. She has recently been awarded the JT Ross (Pty) Ltd Scholarship as the top student in Property Studies 3rd Year (class medal) as well as the Nedbank Corporate Property Finance Academic Achievement Award. Maxine was also awarded the Paragon Lending Solutions Prize for the best student in the subject of Property Finance. She is currently studying towards Honours in Property Studies.

