



The Anchor

Issue 3

September 2019

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls,

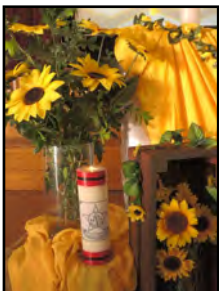
Maris Stella is a very special place where real vibrancy and a sense of community exist and, in all phases of our school, Term Three has been an action packed and positive one.

The array of opportunities offered to our girls is astounding, as evidenced in this edition of The Anchor. We are indeed so fortunate and grateful to our teachers for the time and effort that they devote to educating and extending our girls, and I urge our girls to continue to embrace every opportunity with their usual enthusiasm, grace and gratitude.

I wish everyone a happy holiday and look forward to welcoming our girls back for the Fourth Term, refreshed and ready for the final countdown to examination success!

With warm regards
Joan Schmidt

*being humble means
recognizing that we are not
ON EARTH TO SEE HOW
important we can become.
BUT TO SEE HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE
we can make in the
lives others.
-gordon b. hinckley*



Sunflower Fund Day Celebrations

We celebrated Sunflower Fund with love, laughter and our inimitable style on break up day, as all girls and



their families embraced this opportunity not only to support this worthy cause, but also to allow their creativity to shine. While our Pre-school and Junior Primary girls dressed in their own imaginative style, each class from Grade 4 to 11 designed and created their own unique outfits, based on their different interpretations of this year's Sunflower Fund theme, #IAM. The resulting fashion show was a celebration of courage, optimism, confidence, strength, selflessness, bravery and joy, with all 960 toques purchased by our Maris Stella Family put to exciting use! Thank you to all the moms, grans, sisters and Grade 11 Mentors who put so much thought and effort into turning ambitious designs into reality! And a big thank you to our Grade 11 Portfolios for displaying such teamwork in putting this beautiful day together.



Grade 11 Leaders

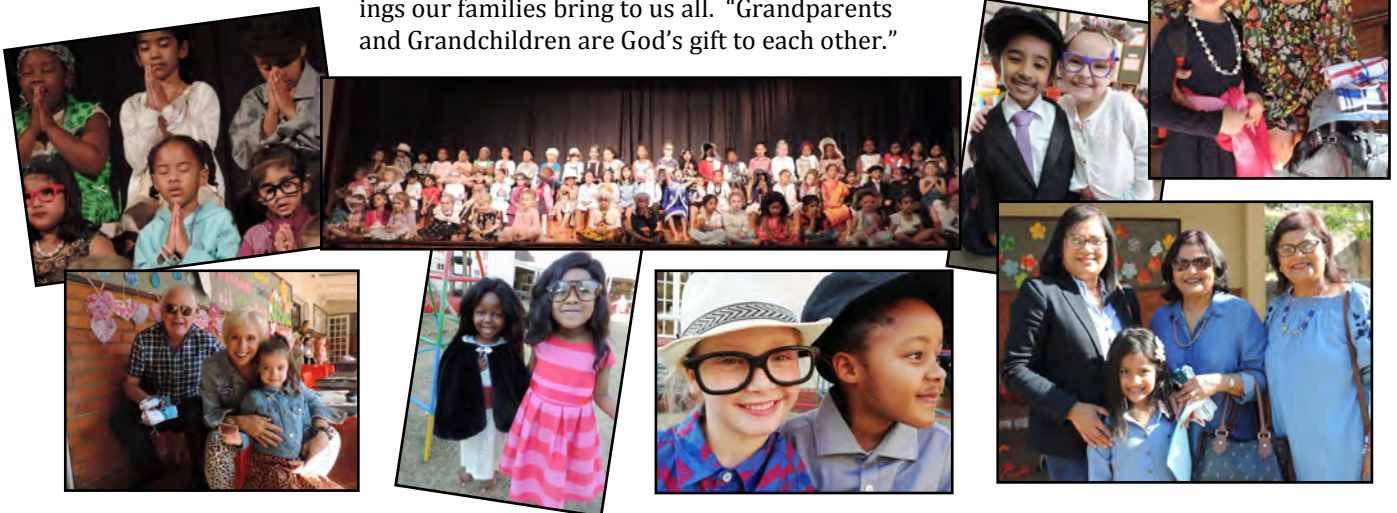


In a special assembly dedicated to leadership earlier this term, each Grade 11 pledged to use their gifts, time and talents for the good of our school family, to lead by example and to empower each other, recognising each other's different strengths. Congratulations to our Portfolio Heads, who we know will work together to inspire and uplift their Maris Stella sisters.

- Front Row: Zinhle Sithole, Keisha Moonasar, Bayanda Gumede, Oluhle Ndlovu, Shriyaa Sooklal, Mpho Sigcau.
- Second Row: Andiswa Gumbi, Caitlyn Gooding, Sinelihle Mncibi, Holly Davey, Dayna Miller.
- Back Row: Jody Ribbink, Kaylyn Asgeir-Nielsen, Demi Coskey, Jessica Cholwich, Malaika Ahiwe.

Pre-school Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day is such a highlight of our Pre-school calendar, dedicated to the amazing granies and grandpas in our Maris Stella Pre-school family. Our girls treated their superstar granies and grandpas to a very special concert, and reminded us of the many blessings our families bring to us all. "Grandparents and Grandchildren are God's gift to each other."



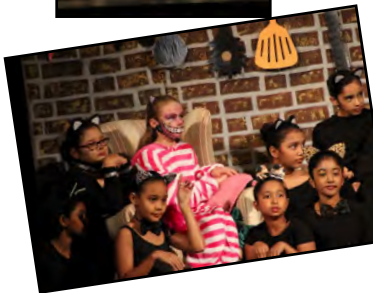
Roald Dahl Day

September 13th is a day that is celebrated around the world to honour Roald Dahl's birthday, which is always an exciting day at Maris Stella! Our Grade 4s have been learning all about Roald Dahl this term, intrigued by his life stories and enjoying many of his wonderful books, such as Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Boy. Roald Dahl Day was a day full of fun, as all the Grade 4s and teachers came to school dressed as various Roald Dahl characters. Our celebrations included a fun fashion show, in which the girls showcased their wonderfully creative outfits and best dressed prizes were awarded. The girls also decorated and enjoyed their own Marie Biscuit treats, as well as challenged each other in a fun group quiz to put all their Roald Dahl knowledge to the test. They thoroughly enjoyed a day of fun, treats, spot prizes and secret 'Golden Tickets'!



Prep Production: Alice

This year's Prep Production of Alice whisked the audience away on an exciting trip down the rabbit hole to magical Wonderland! The show was a visual feast, full of colour and light, and showcased the incredible talent of our girls in such spectacular style! The rousing, joyful score sung beautifully by our cast and choir provided the framework to this whimsical adventure. Special thanks to Mrs Holmes, Mrs Thurtell, Mrs Ribbink, Mrs du Plessis and Mrs Bezuidenhout for all their efforts in putting such an outstanding production together!



Grade 7 Market Day

The day finally arrived for our Grade 7 entrepreneurs on 12 September, after many long weeks planning and preparing for their Market Day, undertaking extensive market research studies and implementing innovative marketing strategies. With a wide variety of goods on offer, these future business women had no shortage of customers lining up to purchase their creative and delicious goods.



Grade 6 Spirit of Adventure

Our Grade 6s set off on a very exciting overnight excursion to Spirit of Adventure at Shongweni Dam on 14 August. The girls developed their leadership skills and how to work as a team, and managed to conquer some of their fears, enjoying the abseiling, raft building, kayaking and obstacle courses that tested both their inner and outer strength. They also had to cook their own dinner over the campfire... a unique and tasty experience for most of them! Thanks to Mrs Kidd, Mrs Coffin-Grey and the incredible team at Spirit of Adventure for facilitating this wonderful opportunity for our girls to build new bonds and strengthen friendships.



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



Grade 5 Sweetdale excursion

Our Grade 5s loved their over-night adventure at Sweetdale Camp on Tuesday 13 August. From rock climbing and ziplining across the river, to completing puzzles using



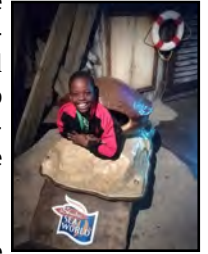
team-work skills and braving an obstacle course in the treetops, our girls so enjoyed spending time together and challenging their own expectations of what they could accomplish! The stop off at The Waffle House was also a highlight!



Grade 3 Ushaka visit



Our Grade 3 girls had an exciting visit to uShaka Marine World where they learned about all things fishy – from sharks to jelly-fish, spider crabs to manta rays and rounded off the visit with a dolphin show, always a highlight! They were taken around the aquarium in small groups lead by very well-informed guides, who shared their vast knowledge about marine life, and even dissected a fish in the uShaka classroom. The girls gained an insight into the importance of the conservation of our oceans and learned how each of them can go about making a difference.



Grade 2 Reptile Talk

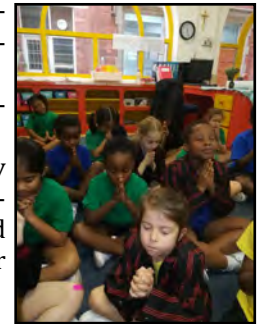
On 2 September, our Grade 2s so enjoyed a talk on reptiles by Educate and Fascinate. After learning some interesting facts about these cold blooded critters, the girls had the opportunity to hold and touch the reptiles that were brought along, which some of them were brave enough to do!



Grade 1 Conservationists!



The Grade 1s had an exciting and thought provoking week recently, which included civvies day in support of World Rhino Month, where they read a rhino story and said a special prayer for the rhinos. Furthering their conservation theme, they had a talk about recycling by Educate and Fascinate, and discussed the importance of looking after our planet.



Grade 8s trip to Spirit of Adventure

Early this term, some of our Grade 8s spent an exhilarating weekend at Spirit of Adventure, where they faced their fears while enjoying spending time together. Some of their comments included:

"Spirit of Adventure was the best weekend of my life. I had so much fun and was so sad to leave."

"The best part was rock climbing and singing songs with the best instructors."

"I had an amazing time and bonded with people that I never knew I would talk to."



Prep and High School Sports Day

The chilly wind did nothing to dampen the excitement of our 2019 Inter-house Athletics Day on 8 August! Our three Houses embraced the "Holidays" theme with their usual creativity and enthusiasm, with Ambrose choosing New Year, Marian Halloween and Patrician St Patrick's Day of course! Congratulations to Marian, the victors of the day, and to Ambrose for winning the Spirit Cup. Well done to our Junior and Senior Victrix Ludorum winners, Julia McAlister and Caitlyn Gooding, and our grateful thanks to special guests Mr and Mrs Lombard and Mr and Mrs McAlister, and all the parents who came along to support our girls.



Junior Primary Sports Day



Our Junior Primary girls gave it their all on the field at their Sports Day on 13 September, whether it was by cheering for their House or doing their best on the track. Congratulations to Marian for their well deserved win, and to Ambrose for winning the Spirit Cup! We're so proud of the team spirit shown by all our girls, and also thank our Grade 7s for leading the cheering and helping out in so many ways.



Pre-school Sports Day

There was so much excitement at our Pre-school Sports Day on 13 September! Our little girls just loved all the running, jumping, face painting and cheering, and were especially thrilled to share this fun day with their moms and dads, many of whom even braved the Moms and Dads race!



Grade 8 Cultural Evening

I Heart Maris Stella Market

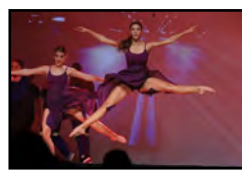
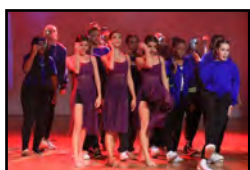
Our Grade 8s celebrated the vibrant and colourful culture of India on Thursday 12 September with energetic dancing, delicious food and stunning outfits. Parents and pupils were treated to a wide variety of entertainment which was so enjoyed by everyone! The Cultural Evening is part of our ongoing Grade 8 programme, encouraging the girls to share their talents while forming stronger bonds with their peers.

A big thank you to our Maris Stella Family and friends for helping to make our I Heart Maris Stella Market the happy, fun, amazing day that it was! From all the hard work put in by our Parents' Association as well as our amazing Class Moms, to our supportive teachers and all the moms, dads and girls who volunteered their time on the day, not forgetting our craft market vendors, thank you so much for sharing this special day with us!



Dance@Kearsney

Some of our High School dancers recently participated in the annual Dance@Kearsney Festival, sharing the stage with more than 16 other schools from around KZN. Our girls rose to the occasion, workshopping a creative, energetic fusion piece. A special word of thanks to Dayna Miller for choreographing the item and to Mpho Sigau, Jenna O'Brien, Miss Smit and Miss Tjasink for their assistance and support.



Gymnastics

Debating



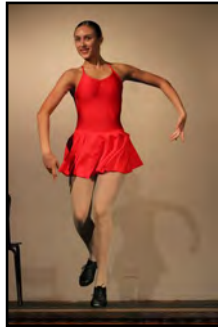
We are very proud of Ashleigh Prinsloo, Mia King and Théa Naidoo who took part in the KZN Provincial Rhythmic Gymnastics on 24 August and performed exceptionally well, respectively placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Level 8 U15 age group. All three of these talented gymnasts have been selected to represent KZN at the South Africa Gym Games in Durban, at the end of September.

Congratulations to Shristi Sooklal, Grade 10, who has been selected to represent KZN at the National British Parliamentary Championships at the end of the year. Ranked 3rd in KZN at the School's British Parliamentary Open Debating Competition, Shristi was also ranked 4th at the Asian World Schools' Debating Championships held in Bangkok, and represented South Africa as part of the South African Team that made it to the Novice Debating Final.



Dance

After receiving a Distinction with 98% for her Gold Lower Tap Examination in June, Jody Ribbink qualified to perform in the Annual AIDT (Association of International Dance Teachers) Bursary Award Performance, which was held in Johannesburg at the Roodepoort Theatre on 25 August. We are exceptionally proud of Jody, who placed an incredible 3rd in this prestigious event. She won a bursary along with a special medal and certificate.



Karate



Congratulations to Nyska Jagasur who was awarded the highly prestigious title of Junior Sports-woman of the Year by Karate KZN at their awards banquet held on 31 August.

Tennis



Well done to Kaitlyn Ramduth and Sophia Solodovnicova Singh, who won the Durban Girls' College Cup Doubles' Tennis Festival on 14 September. They played against Umhlali Preparatory, Durban Girls' College and St Mary's DSG, winning all their matches 5-0, except one which they won 4-1. Kaitlyn also recently represented South Africa at the World Junior Tennis Championships in the Czech Republic, and was part of the South African Primary Schools Team that represented South Africa in a tournament in New Orleans, USA.

Lifesaving



On 14 September, a small team of Maris Stella girls participated in the second Inter-school Lifesaving initiative at Marine Surf Lifesaving Club. We are so proud of our Maris Stella team, who won the Girls Division, finishing in 1st Place overall, after facing strong competition from 8 other schools. Congratulations to Julia McAlister, Madison Stewart, Hannah Savage, Yuvanka Pillay and Jessica Savage. Jessica also tied first place for the U9 Competitor of the Tournament and Madison won the U13 Competitor of the Tournament.

Sports and Cultural Awards

Our Sports and Cultural Awards were a testament to the wide array of talent our girls are blessed with. The Cultural Awards held on 16 September paid tribute to the excellent achievements of our dancers, public speakers, artists, actresses, singers and musicians in a spectacular concert, while our Sports Awards dinner on 18 September highlighted the many gifted sports women, for both their skills as well as their commitment to their sport. Congratulations to all our award winners, and thank you to our parents, teachers and coaches for your

dedication to the success of our girls. A full list of all the award winners can be found on the D6.

