



The Anchor

Issue 4

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Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

Walt Disney once said 'You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality'. This was certainly the case here at Maris Stella in 2018. The reality is that the learning experiences, the cultural activities and performances, the sporting achievements and all other projects that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from the staff, parents and girls.

The teachers are commended for the way in which they have embraced the rewards and challenges of the constant changes which take place in education with positivity and enthusiasm. We are so privileged to be a part of a school with highly capable and committed teachers. To the entire staff, thank you for your energy, passion and enthusiasm.

Not a week goes by when we do not celebrate the accomplishments of our girls, whether it be academic or in the extramural sphere. The commitment from our parents in supporting their daughters is so appreciated, thank you for all that you do, and we are so grateful to all of the Maris Stella families who continue to proudly promote Maris Stella.

To our departing families and girls, we wish you every happiness and success for the future and hope that you visit us. To our returning staff, girls and families - we look forward to strengthening our relationship with you and embarking on the journey of our 2019 school year together. There are many exciting things set to take place next year as we celebrate our 120th birthday!

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe, happy and holy holiday season.

With warm regards
Joan Schmidt

Farewell to our Class of 2018

This momentous term has seen us say goodbye to our Matrics in so many ways, from a very special Mass, to a staff tea in honour of our Class of 2018, an Old Girls Breakfast, and yet more to come. In her address to the Matrics, Maris Stella Old Girl Derryn Schmidt reminded our girls to not be ruled by their fears, but instead to be brave in this time of change, embracing what the world has to offer them, while remembering how much they have to give to the world. Class of 2018, remember your Maris Stella home, lessons learned of commitment, service and kindness, and when in doubt, look up and trust.



Pre-school Christmas Concert

Our Pre-school girls wowed family and friends with their performances on stage at their Christmas Concert on Thursday 1 November. Our Grade 000 and 00 classes entertained us with scenes from Santa's Toy Shop, while our Grade R girls enacted the story of the birth of Jesus. What an uplifting and beautiful evening it was!



Junior Primary Nativity

On Wednesday 21 November, our Junior Primary girls so enjoyed retelling the story of the birth of Jesus, at their very special Nativity Concert. Thank you girls and teachers for bringing this wonderful moment to life for us once again.



Grade 5 China Day

Grade 4 Market Day

Our Grade 5s have been studying Ancient China in History and had such fun bringing it to life on China Day! The girls looked beautiful in their traditional Chinese outfits and thoroughly enjoyed their Chinese meal and fortune cookies.

Our Grade 4s held their very first Market Day on 11 October, and so enjoyed the experience of conceptualising, sourcing, marketing and then finally selling their goods to each other and the rest of the school!



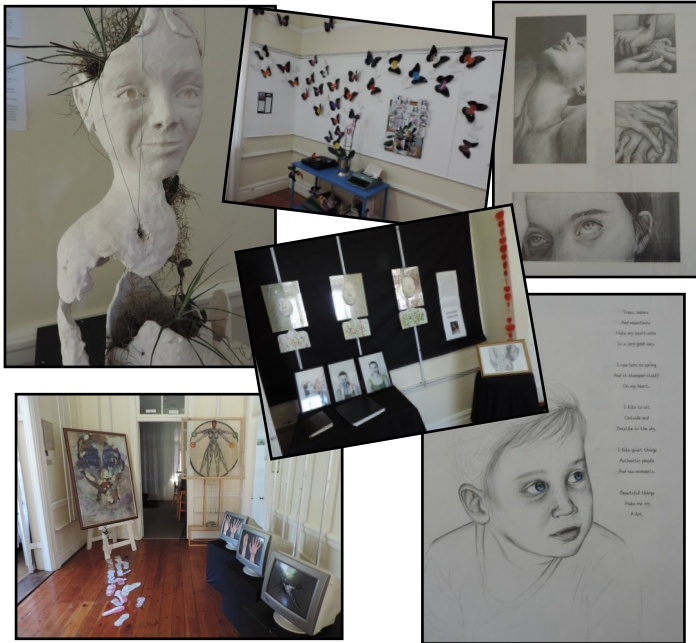
Students' Representative Council

Our Student Representative Council, lead by Lulu Mbanga, Ukhona Ngongo and Aimee-Sera McLeod, is mandated to give a voice to our student body, while helping to maintain a fair and just school environment. They encourage their Maris Stella sisters to support them in realising their vision of always empowering women; upholding old traditions while embracing new ones; to be an eco-friendly Maris Stella and always proudly South African!



Matric Art Exhibition

Our Matric Art Exhibition which opened on 9 October was an exciting visual testament to the talent and creativity of our art students. Their thoughtful and innovative journey of creation and loving execution culminated in the presentation of their final examination pieces to the public.



Inter-house Plays

Well done to all our House Play directors and actresses for all your hard work and many hours of rehearsals which culminated in such an entertaining evening during our first week back this term.

Special congratulations to Patrician, for winning the coveted Best Play award, as well as Best Directors, Lulu Mbanga and Ukhona Ngongo.

Well done to Chloé Garrioch, Lucy Paynter and Adaeze Enebechi from Ambrose for winning Best Script, and Maxine Butler from Patrician for Best Actress!



Grade 7 Moms and Daughters' High Tea

Our Grade 7 girls and their moms enjoyed a special celebration of thanksgiving together on Friday, starting with a beautiful chapel service, before being treated to a delicious high tea. With the theme "treasure", we were reminded of what is really important and the most valuable treasure in our lives; our family.



Grade 1 Charity

Last week, our Grade 1s were visited by representatives from the SA Guide Dogs Association, including the beautiful Daisy and Cola. This special organisation has been the beneficiary of our Grade 1 fundraising efforts for many years, making a difference in the lives of the visually impaired. We congratulate our Grade 1s for raising R10 000 this year, the highest amount raised for a charity in 2018! This will pay for the training of 2 guide dog puppies. Well done Grade 1s and parents!



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



Inter-house Sports Day



In what was a very eventful break-up day last term, our Prep and High School Inter-house Sports

Day was filled with fun and spirited competition as our Houses battled it out for supremacy on the track! Congratulations to Marian, who won the day with 291 points, and also walked away with the coveted Spirit Trophy. Well done to Patrician who came second with a score of 224 points, and Ambrose in third place with 124 points.

We congratulate our Senior Victrix Ludorum, Sarah Proctor (Grade 9), and Junior Victrix Ludorum, Carly Smith (Grade 6), who broke 4 records.



Prep Inter-house Cross Country

Well done to all our Prep athletes who gave it their all in today's Inter-house Cross Country! Despite the warm conditions, much fun was had by all, as always! We congratulate our winning House, Patrician, and our winners from each age group: Jemma Smith (Grade 4), Ella-Rose Gass (Grade 5), Carly Smith (Grade 6) and Tannah Smith (Grade 7).



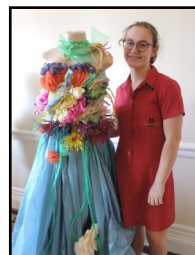
Parents' Association Moms and Daughters' High Tea

Our Moms and Daughters Tea Party on 20 October was a wonderful celebration of all things pretty and pink, as well as raising funds for CANSA Durban. We so enjoyed the special company, delicious tea time treats, exciting goodie bags and our entertaining guest speakers, Fashion Nanny Sabrina Maingard and Sandra Thomas from Satin Candy Bra Boutique. Thank you so much to all our sponsors for your generosity, and our wonderful Parents' Association for all your hard work, and a big thank you to all our Moms and Daughters for your support.



Grade 10 Waste to Art Durban July assignment

Many of you will have seen the beautiful outfits made from recycled materials, designed by our talented Grade 10 artists. After being spotted through social media from a post after our Moms and Daughters' High Tea, these dresses formed part of a fashion show hosted by the University of KZN, themed "Waste to Art", at the KZNSA Art Gallery on Tuesday 27 November. Congratulations to our creative artists!



Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge

We are so proud of Shriyaa Sooklal, Grade 10, who was the top student in the Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge! At a spectacular awards ceremony in Johannesburg on Thursday 11 October, Shriyaa was announced as the winner of this national competition, and will be jetting off to Silicon Valley in April 2019 to meet with world famous start-up entrepreneurs.

Maris Stella placed 3rd overall for most Entrepreneurial High School at #AGEC18, and we also congratulate Mrs Julia van Blerk who was recognised as one of the top ten teachers of the competition. With 614 schools from around South Africa competing in this challenge, and over 8000 students participating, the achievements of Shriyaa and all our Maris Stella Business Studies students who took part are to be highly commended.

The Allan Gray Entrepreneurial Challenge, organised and facilitated by Mr Anthony Selley, is a competition that gamifies learning about entrepreneurship for high school learners in Grades 8 to 12 in South Africa. The challenges are designed to engage participants to act and think like entrepreneurs and rewards those who finish among the top performers. We thank Mrs van Blerk and Ms Dewar for continuing to inspire their Business Studies classes to fulfil their potential, to be creative and never to underestimate the power of determination and commitment.



KZN Water Polo

We are exceptionally proud to have 11 girls selected to play Water Polo for KZN.

From left: Jaime Robinson and Gina Ten-Bokkel Huinink (KZN U13A), Megan Lombard (KZN U19A), Lea-Shane Manikam (KZN U13B), Isabella Hislop (KZN U15A), Georgia Erskine (Non travelling reserve KZN U19A), Isabella Halstead (KZN U14A), Tannah Smith (KZN U13A), Kaylyn Asgeir-Nielsen (KZN U16A) and Ilse Southey (KZN U14A). Absent was Cerin Vaughan (U19A).



Tennis

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Ramduth, who has been selected for the South African National U14 Squad. She was awarded the KZN Player of the Year award for the second year in a row, a phenomenal achievement to receive such a prestigious award, and testament to her many hours of practise and exceptional talent.



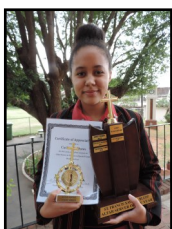
Acrobatics

Congratulations to Bethany Moore, who received Colours from the Integrated Artistic Acrobatic Association of South Africa during the IAAASA National Competition held in Krugersdorp in October. Bethany competed in 16 dance and acro routines, including groups, solos, trios and duets. She received 4 Gold medals, 4 Silver medals and 4 Bronze medals, as well as achieving her IAAASA Colours.



Altar Server Award

We are very proud of Catherine Dunn who was awarded the Altar Server of the Year award at her parish, St. Francis Xavier. She also received a 5 year Service Award.



Diving

Maris Stella's divers have been performing extremely well lately, with 6 girls being selected for the KZN Schools' Diving Team which competed in the South African Schools Championships on 20 October in Johannesburg. In the recent KZN Junior Inter-Schools Competition held at Kings Park on 27 October, Addison Miskey and Mackenzie van Niekerk came 2nd in their respective categories, and Aimee Dunn and Olivia Elliot came 1st and 2nd respectively in U13.



Rhythmic Gymnastics

Well done to Ashleigh Prinsloo, who participated in the South African Gym Games in Pretoria, where she achieved 1st place in the Level 7 U15 age group. This means that Ashleigh is the Level 7 U15 Rhythmic Gymnastics South African Champ for 2018. She also won 2 Gold medals at this prestigious competition, for placing first in her hoop routine and for placing first overall.

