



The Anchor

Issue 4

December 2019

Faith, Family, Future

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls,

This year has been an exciting and busy one, celebrating our 120th birthday, South Africa winning the Rugby World Cup, and so many other triumphs and tribulations, both big and small. We are so fortunate to have gathered together such close-knit families in our school which gives us a sense of community, a sense of pride in each other and a sense of purpose. Thank you, parents, for all for your support and for trusting us to care for your children. You can be confident that our simple goal is much the same as yours. We all want the very best for your children.

Girls, enjoy and appreciate the privilege of the extraordinary education you are so fortunate to experience, and aspire to climb the greatest heights of achievement. But know that it is not achievement that will ultimately most reward you, it is in the quality of the responsibility you take, and the spirit of the gratitude that you manifest, that will ultimately most reward you, will ultimately make you feel happiest and most fulfilled. Spread your wings and reach places where you will make a positive difference in the world and in the lives of others, stand firm in what you believe in and let God guide you in all that you do.

Wishing all our Maris Stella families a blessed and joyous Christmas and a peaceful and happy holiday.

With warm regards
Joan Schmidt

2020 Head and Deputy Head Girls

Congratulations to our Head and Deputy Head Girls for 2020! Shriyaa Sooklal, Sinelihle Mncibi and Oluhle Ndlovu, we are so proud of you and know that you are going to inspire and encourage your Maris Stella sisters with your commitment, passion and grace, and in true servant leadership style.



Grade 12 Prize Giving



Our Speech Day and Grade 12 Prize Giving on 17 October paid tribute to our top academic achievers as well as recognising and rewarding important qualities such as service, graciousness, fortitude and fellowship. We especially congratulate our Dux, Amy Randelhoff and Proxime Accessit Rebecca Standage, as well as the deserving recipient of the Good Fellowship Award, Kwazikwakhe Ndlovu, and Complete Maris Stella Girl Award, Ukhona Ngongo. Our grateful thanks to guest speaker psychologist and author Paul Bushell, whose message really resonated with us - people are the constant in our ever changing world, and we need to develop empathy, celebrate our differences, and most importantly, be kind. We are so proud of all of our Matrics, not only for their determination to succeed, but also for always finding the joy. As Head Girl Ukhona Ngongo said, the youth are fearless, brave and resilient, and have the energy to shape a better world and affect change for the greater good. "Use your femininity as your superpower, and chase your dreams."



Class of 2019 Farewell

During the first week of this term, we said good bye to our Matric Class of 2019 in many special ways. Our staff held a farewell tea to wish them well in their upcoming finals, which are thankfully now over! Matric is the pinnacle of many years of lessons taught by many inspirational teachers, and we thank our wonderful staff for all their dedication and love for this special group of girls. They also enjoyed a special breakfast at which they were addressed by Old Girl Megan Power, who reminded them how important reputation is, while encouraging them to make a difference in the world. We also held a meaningful Eucharistic service in our beautiful Chapel, celebrating the transformation that each girl has undergone. As they fly away from Maris Stella, we trust that they will share the values learnt in their new environment, so that they may make a positive difference and bring colour and light into our world. Ave Maris Stella.



Proudly South African Day and Bok Friday!

Spirits were high on our Proudly South African Day, which was closely followed by Bok Friday, as all our girls showed their support both for our talented Springboks and our beautiful country, sporting South African flags and lots of green and gold!



Pre-school Christmas Concert

During our Pre-school Christmas Concert on 7 November, we took a fun filled and colourful trip under the sea with our Blue and Red Groups and saw how all the sea creatures were preparing for the visit by Father Christmas and his elves. The beautiful nativity by our Grade R classes was a celebration of the birth of Jesus, and reminded us that even the barn animals were excited about His birth!



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



Junior Primary Nativity

Our Grade 1, 2 and 3 girls had such fun retelling the story of the first Christmas Day during their beautiful Nativity play.



The cute cows, sheep and donkeys learned to live together harmoniously as they welcomed the Baby Jesus to their stable.



Durban Youth Council

Congratulations to our Durban Youth Council Representatives, Tsidi Motta, Kamishka Pather (Deputy Mayor), Lauren Dobeyn, Sarah Randelhoff, Isla Wilson and Nokuphila Mthembu. This exciting, empowering non profit organisation invites participation from schools in Durban, and provides a platform

for scholars to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, through actively managing and participating in community based projects, to uplift the lives of others.



Grade 7 Moms and Daughters' High Tea

On this special day in the journeys' of our Grade 7s and their Moms, we celebrated this strongest of bonds with a beautiful chapel service, and delicious High Tea in honour of our Moms. "No one else will ever know the strength of my love for you. After all, you're the only one who knows what my heart sounds like from the inside." (Unknown). Thank you Moms, for all that you do!



Grade 4 Roselands Trip

At the beginning of the term, the Grade 4s went on their long awaited overnight excursion to Roselands Outdoor Centre. They were blessed with good weather, allowing the girls the most wonderful time exploring the fresh and beautiful outdoors.



The trip was jam-packed with fun activities, including canoeing, zip lining, adventure walks, searching for crabs, frogs and other interesting creatures in the wetland, exploring the kiwi vineyard, milking a cow and getting extra-dirty doing the mud obstacle course. The dynamic camp leaders kept the girls entertained from morning to evening and the girls loved every minute. The peaceful scenery



and beautiful views were a fresh break from the classroom, and many concepts the girls have learnt during the year such food chains, rural / urban areas, farming and adjectives was brought to life and made more meaningful.

Team work, overcoming fears and challenges, making new friends and accepting their unique and special selves are valuable and lifelong lessons that the girls brought back with them.



Grade 5 China Day

Our Grade 5s recently brought their History syllabus to life with their China Day celebrations. Wearing their beautiful Chinese outfits, our girls got creative with some Chinese themed art and dancing, enjoyed parading with their parasols and ended the day with a delicious Chinese meal and fortune cookies!



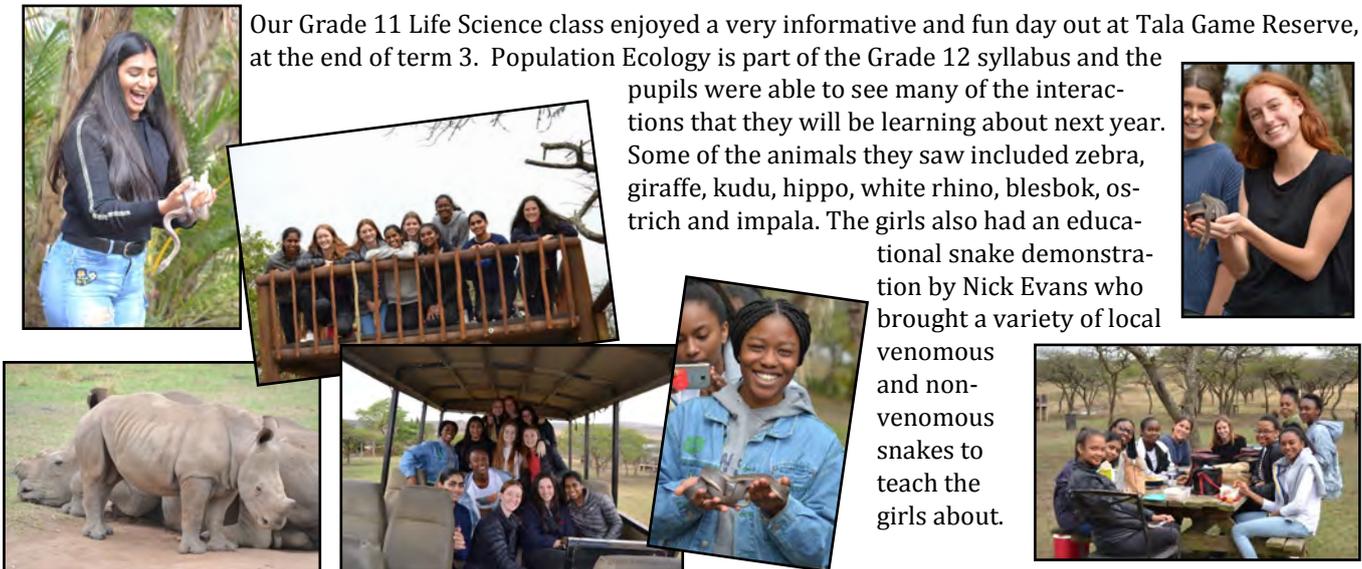
Grade 1 Visit to the Animal Farm

Our Grade 1 girls went on an amazing outing to the Flag Animal Farm at the beginning of term. They relished the opportunity to feed farm animals, have horse and tractor rides and play on the apparatus in their playgrounds, and loved having a picnic lunch while they were there. They also met two white wolves, and some girls were even brave enough to hold a snake!



Grade 11 Life Science Excursion to Tala Game Reserve

Our Grade 11 Life Science class enjoyed a very informative and fun day out at Tala Game Reserve, at the end of term 3. Population Ecology is part of the Grade 12 syllabus and the pupils were able to see many of the interactions that they will be learning about next year. Some of the animals they saw included zebra, giraffe, kudu, hippo, white rhino, blesbok, ostrich and impala. The girls also had an educational snake demonstration by Nick Evans who brought a variety of local venomous and non-venomous snakes to teach the girls about.



Grade 10 Consumer Studies Maris Stella Master Chef



This term our Grade 10 Consumer Studies classes pushed the limits of their culinary creativity in our very first Maris Stella Masterchef Challenge, launched by Mrs Erasmus. The girls were provided with a "mystery box" of ingredients whereby they had to create either a savoury or sweet dish using at least one or more of the ingredients' they were provided with and were given complete creative freedom to create the perfect dish. After one and a half hours of cooking, the girls produced the most beautiful and delicious creations worthy of any competition and really showed off their skills they have learnt this year from their practicals. Unfortunately, there were only prizes available for

the top three dishes in each group and the winners from group 1 were Isabella Pearsall, Kiara Kassie and Akhona Mkhize in first, second and third respectively. And the top three positions in group 2 were Tshiamo Gumede, Sarah Proctor and Holly Chelin in first, second and third respectively. Well done to all the contestants and we look forward to seeing what the new Grade 10 Consumer Studies girls will produce in 2020!



Diving



We are exceptionally proud of our Diving Team, who obtained excellent results at the recent KZN Primary Schools Diving Competition, winning every category that they were entered into! Well done to our girls and

their coach, Mrs Miskey!

Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge

Congratulations to Kundanika Somasundram, who achieved outstanding results in the Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge. She was invited to Johannesburg to pitch her entrepreneurial business idea to a panel of judges, and made it into the Top 5 out of thousands of scholars from across South Africa. Kundanika was awarded 4th place overall, which is an incredible achievement in such a valuable and competitive challenge. Thank you to our fantastic Business Studies teachers, Ms Kristi Dewar and Mrs Julia van Blerk for all they do to develop, inspire and support our Business Studies girls.



Softball

We are so proud of Caitlyn Gooding and Jenna O'Brien, who were awarded their caps for their selection to the KZN Schools' U17A softball team at the Annual Capping and Prize Giving Ceremony last week. We also congratulate our U19 Softball Team, who finished second in the U19B league this year. Thank you to our fantastic coaches, Miss Frankson, Courtney Stuart and Brendan Brooks.



Scouts

Full colours was recently awarded to Keisha Moonasar, who completed the requirements for her Scouting Springbok Colours; one of only three scouts in the past five years who have achieved this honour. To achieve this award, a Scout has to undergo and complete various requirements, including at least 40 hours of community service, leading a hike of over 30 kilometres in unfamiliar territory, developing and executing a program for a camp, and planning and constructing a pioneering project.



Prep and Grade 8 to 11 Prize Givings

Our Prep and Grade 8 to 11 Prize Givings are the academic highlights of our school year, in which we recognise and celebrate the academic accomplishments of our girls while also recognising important qualities such as diligence and progress. As Mrs Schmidt reminded them, the only thing standing in your way is you, and while the path to achieve your dreams may be long and hard, with determination and resilience, anything is possible. Our Prep Guest speaker Sarah Ferguson, founder of Breathe Ocean Conservation, inspired our girls to try new things until they find their passion, to follow their joy and to live deeply and tread lightly, and Mrs Schmidt urged our Grade 7s to commit to their dreams and spread their wings, to reach places where they can make a positive difference in the world. Our High School guest speaker and former Maris Stella Head Girl, Dr Reantha Pillay, inspired us to always keep learning even though our path may be potholed, and to stop overloading ourselves, yield for others and to others, and to go with Faith.

