



THE VERITAS

• COMPASSION • INTEGRITY • RESPECT • SERVICE • RESPONSIBILITY •



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Friday 18
March 2022

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A reminder to please download the new **Springfield Convent School App**.
[Click here](#) for the links to the instructions for the download process.
Both Edana and the new app will run until the end of March.
From April Edana will no longer be utilised.



Message from the Head of School

Penny Mullan

**"Enjoy the glamour of the ordinary"
~ Ruth Everson**

A friend and former colleague recently posted a reflection on Facebook where she spoke of her ordinary day doing ordinary things. In a disrupted world thrown into chaos, she reminded those reading to "enjoy the glamour of the ordinary".

Nearing the end of the term, Ruth's words resounded in my mind. The ordinary activities that have filled our days and our hearts have been met with a confluence of relief and celebration. Alongside our core business of teaching and learning, ordinary events have filled our diaries, and our students have participated in extraordinary ways.

Our pupils have used the courts and fields to capacity, and the water in the pool ripples continuously. The introduction of Touch Rugby has been met with great excitement and success. Our debaters proudly reported their victory over Herschel and the musicians continue to bring joy during their quarterly concerts, lunchtime concerts, as well as their performances during Mass. New life has been injected into the community engagement activities, with initiatives like SMILE and HELP returning to strength. Prospective parents could not get enough of our pupils during the Open Days for Grade 8 2023. They impressed with their confidence, poise, and authenticity. On stage, the presentations at the Cultural Evening celebrated and expressed appreciation for the diverse aspects and interests of the student body and, at tonight's MADD evening, we look forward to applauding the talents of our pupils (and staff). Furthermore, our students have been rowing, cycling, dancing, lifesaving, and competing in athletics.

On Monday, we will commemorate those who lost their lives during the Sharpeville massacre and celebrate our country's Bill of Rights. Human rights are an ordinary expectation that has not been realised for all. This generation of girls has an innate desire to make a difference and, on this Human Rights' Day, we recognize and reflect on our responsibility to educate and encourage our young women to use their voices to advocate for others, and to address inequity where they find it.

PENNY MULLAN

Head of School



Message from the Junior School Principal

Brandon Paulse

"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence."

~St. John Paul II

As this will be the last newsletter for the Term, I would like to reflect as I write this article with thanks and a grateful heart for the many blessings received. Henri Frederic Amiel said that "Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts." I would like to thank Ms Mullan, our school board, parents, staff, our pupils, and our Dominican Sisters for the sincere welcome and incredible warmth which I have felt; this has helped me settle into our incredible Springfield Community. I am often asked how long I have been at Springfield Convent, and I joke that although it has only been 9 weeks, it often feels like 9 years, and only because of the warmth and welcome I have felt.

There are so many positive structures in place at Springfield and I am certainly looking forward to adding layers to the scaffolding already in place. This term has been filled with so many extraordinary blessings. We celebrated our 151st school anniversary and birthday with a Mass for the whole school. We were fortunate enough to have Archbishop, Stephen Brislin as our main celebrant. We also celebrated other major liturgical events such as the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas and Ash Wednesday, which marked the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with much fanfare with the girls competing in pancake races on St Thomas field. Valentine's Day welcomed splashes of red and white hearts and flowers in the corridors and classrooms which engendered a true feeling of love and happiness among the pupils and staff. This week we celebrated St Patrick's day in honour of our Dominican Sisters, who travelled from Ireland, to establish schools in South Africa.

Dare I even venture to say that a little bit of normality has returned to school life, with parents being able to attend various sporting events, namely the the Preschool Sports Day and the Foundation Phase Fun Gala. There is much anticipation for the upcoming Inter House Gala on Wednesday.

Our pupils have participated in many weekly inter-school sport events this term, including the PGSGU Gala as well as hosting and participating in the PGSGU Tennis tournament. We also have Hockey, Netball and Water Polo Teams who will participate in the Clarendon Sports Festival in East London during the first week of the school holiday. We wish them safe travels and a wonderful experience and trust they will be confident and positive ambassadors for Springfield and hold our banner high.

Two teams participated in the Literacy Inter School Quiz hosted by Grove; and the Music and Art Departments continue to ensure that our pupils' talents can come to the fore. Academically, we have partnered with Cannons Creek and St Peter's in Johannesburg where educators are able to share best practices, develop and innovate curriculum by exploring the possibilities created in Inquiry and Project based learning. Staff attended the TSSA conference which blended curriculum, innovation and growth mindset. More will be shared about this in upcoming circulars. Pupils have also participated in Mathematics and Computer Olympiads.

Our Community Connect Club actioned our value of service and assisted at Siyazama Creche in Hout Bay and also collected stationery, which could be made up into 80 bags. Currently they are spearheading the Easter Egg drive.

These are only a few of the many highlights experienced by our pupils this past term.

I certainly give thanks to all who made these events and experiences possible for our school community.

The 19th of March marks the Feast of St Joseph. Nothing much is recorded about Joseph's life history in the Bible, other than being Jesus' foster father, Mary's husband and a humble carpenter. One could say that he was a man of little words, but of great action as he played a significant role in the life of Jesus' childhood. St Joseph is known today as the patron and protector of the universal Church.

On the 21st of March, we celebrate and commemorate Human Rights Day. May we never take for granted our human rights, but also the rights and dignity of our neighbour. We only have to open the newspaper or switch on the television to see how our human rights are being infringed upon across the world. As we commemorate Human Rights Day, my prayer for our Springfield Community is that as we continue to transform our school community into a place where every person's rights and dignity are respected and that our value of respect for each other is lived and actioned daily. May we all imitate St Joseph and be the protector of those most vulnerable in our society.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful holiday, travel mercies, abundant blessings and please keep safe.

With sincere thanks and gratitude

BRANDON PAULSE

Junior School Principal



RE Message

Gillian Stubbs

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." St Oscar Romero



Dear Springfield Community

Reflecting on this past term I can breathe a deep breath of gratitude for our beautifully busy and blessed first term.

Acknowledging that we have experienced the spiritual richness of presence through each of our four Dominican pillars.

As I reflect on the First Term, I realise the range of activities covered under the RE/Ethos umbrella. We celebrated four significant Masses, namely, Mass for all Staff on the first academic day, St Thomas Aquinas, Ash Wednesday and our 151st Birthday. We facilitated the New Staff Orientation at the beginning of the academic year and this was done in our Chapel. Aspects of our Dominican charism, our values, our Catholic traditions and acknowledgement of our signs and symbols were shared and explained.

We held both First Confession and Confirmation prayer services with Fr Manuel and Fr Ricardo providing spiritual input respectively.



"The name of God is MERCY.

Jesus is the face of God's MERCY.

Bible is the book of God's MERCY.

Today we are asked to show MERCY.

Because we are in need of MERCY.

Let us now pray for God's MERCY.



Prayer life is kept alive through daily Connect prayers for SS pupils/staff, prayers at the commencement of all meetings, daily Angelus prayer time, paraliturgies on day 4 of SS schedule have commenced for different grades. Weekly prayer in the JS staffroom takes place on Tuesdays at 7:30am. All morning meetings in the SS staffroom also commence with a prayer.

As from term 2, Chapel Masses will be arranged to give each of our grades an experience of Mass from Grade 1 to 12. Mr Paule plans weekly assemblies for JS pupils. They are beautifully liturgically themed and also focus on our school's values.

Grade 8 Orientation had a special day focusing on ethos and it ended with the celebration of the eucharist by Fr Manuel in our lovely gardens.

Hymn singing has also commenced to increase the students' repertoire of hymns ranging from some traditional to some modern.

The Grade 10s have a retreat day planned with a focus on Human Rights on the 23 March. Members of the Justice Desk will facilitate the day with Ms Ducray and I taking care of the opening and closing liturgies as well as co-facilitating some of the sessions.

[click here](#) for the rest of the RE insert.

With blessing

GILLIAN STUBBS



Save the Date

Tuesday 22 March 2022, 18:00-19:30

SPRINGFIELD PPU AGM

Centenary Hall for the AGM followed by drinks at the Art Centre

rsvp to springfieldppu@gmail.com if you will be attending
or click on the zoom link to join virtually

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89115200778?
pwd=c0FwTmM4cTdjWkIvUGt2dnFIUVlydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89115200778?pwd=c0FwTmM4cTdjWkIvUGt2dnFIUVlydz09)

Meeting ID: 891 1520 0778

Passcode: 883349

please share to your class whataspp groups

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