



WATERFALL COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that we've already completed the first quarter of 2025. It has been a successful term at the College, filled with many opportunities to engage with our community and share what makes our school such a special place to be, for students and staff alike.

I recently had the privilege of attending the KZN Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association (SAHISA) quarterly meeting and have been reflecting on the powerful devotion shared at the start of the day's proceedings. One verse in particular resonated with me, Jeremiah 6:16.

"This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..."

As an Exco Team, we've recently presented our 2035 Plan to the Board. While this has been an incredibly exciting process, we know that the rapid pace of change in the world means that education will likely look quite different in 10 years. This scripture really struck me in this context, as it speaks to the importance of guidance, direction and choosing a path that leads to true fulfilment. In education, it serves as a reminder of the value of wisdom, the pursuit of excellence and the commitment to creating a future grounded in integrity and faith.

Education is diverse and constantly evolving, which means that we often find ourselves standing at a crossroads, balancing modern educational demands with the wisdom of tried and tested approaches. What is most important in this is that the needs of the students are put first. At the College, we are not only committed to academic excellence, but also to shaping character and instilling a sense of responsibility in our students. Like the verse suggests, when we walk the good way – one rooted in faith, integrity and respect for others – and encourage our children to do the same, we find rest for our souls, knowing we are preparing them for lives of purpose.

I firmly believe that this core commitment will provide a strong foundation, allowing us to innovate and embrace the positive aspects of the inevitable changes that will come our way over the next decade.

As we continue our journey through this academic year, I encourage you all to reflect on the paths we are walking together. The support that parents give the school is essential, allowing us to collectively guide our children to become thoughtful, compassionate and adaptable leaders who will be so needed in shaping the future.

~ Mrs Green, Principal ~

SMARTPHONE AWARENESS

‘...For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.’
2 Corinthians 12: 14

This term, I have been saddened by the number of children arriving at my office to share what they’ve seen online. In some cases, it has been the least assuming children, highlighting that the online world does not respect individuals – it responds to actions, not intentions, and many issues have arisen from sincere mistakes. There is an urgency for us, as parents, to stay alert to what our children are doing and monitor their activity, especially on smartphones, where the device is smaller, more portable and easier to navigate.

Rather than neutral canvases, adolescents are highly impressionable and rarely able to contextualise the media they digest. With the best intentions, they are drawn to images and videos without fully understanding their immediate or long-term impact. From what I’ve been told, some content that students have been exposed to is very explicit. More tragic is that in each case, the children didn’t actually wanted to see what they were looking at – not even those actively pursuing it. This suggests that, beyond needing help, our children are desperate for it. We have, indeed, arranged for speakers to address the legal concerns of social media, but the moral and spiritual effect on the hearts and minds of our children is paramount. These are the consequences that should truly trouble us, as parents.

I am certain that appropriate safeguarding apps have been installed, but they cannot remove all of the danger. This bolsters my belief that we, as parents, remain the primary guardians. Smartphones are multimedia toys that we must engage with alongside our children and, while there is much value in teaching accountability, I believe the digital world is leaving far more scars than sings. I want to urge parents – especially those of younger students – not to rush into buying a smartphone. For parents who are on the fence, my encouragement would be to wait it out. I understand your child’s insistence, but in these formative years, their focus should be on building active, real-life relationships with family and peers.

For parents navigating what is not an easy path with smartphones, please speak with your children. Given the repercussions, this is not about intruding, especially as it comes with a heart of love and a sincere desire to protect them. It is not a time to shame or condemn, but to walk alongside our children. In some cases, sadly, some need to be reoriented and pulled out from the mire they are in. But this is all energy worth spending, especially as we are helping to preserve the hearts and minds that God has given them.

In this vein, I encourage that we pray for our children. An incredible power exists in prayer. As mentioned, the smartphone culture is not only a physical and emotional one – it is also a spiritual one. As parents, we remain the stewards of the souls of our children, so let’s do everything we can to protect them and trust the Lord to intervene in their lives. God bless.

~ Mr Kyle, Head of Student Affairs ~

DATES TO DIARISE

8 April – School Starts	21 May – College Play
10 April – Grade 12 parent meeting	26 May – Inter-house Tag Rugby
15 April – Grade 8 parent meeting	27 May – Inter-house Netball
17 April – Grade 11 parent meeting	28 May – Inter-house Cross Country
23 April – Grade 9 parent meeting	29 May – Inter-house Hockey
24 April – Grade 10 parent meeting	30 May – Slipper Day
7-9 May – Grade 9 Outdoor	20 June – Walkathon
17 May – WFC Winter Sports Festival	– School Closes for Term 2

SLIDING INTO HAPPINESS



On Saturday, 1 March, Waterfall Prep's Parent Action Group (PAG) hosted one of our favourite events of the year – Sliding Into Happiness! Our field was filled with exciting slides and activities for our pupils to enjoy, such as Go Kart Racing, Parachute Rockets, Surf Boards and a 9m-High Double Lane Slide, to name a few. We were blessed with beautiful weather in a week of heavy rain and while the kids enjoyed the activities, their parents took the opportunity to let their hair down and connect with friends.



A very special thank you to Highway Ford Waterfall, Watercrest Mall and Cotswold Energy Centre for generously supporting our event. We are grateful to be part of such a wonderful community. We'd also like to thank all the parents, Prep and College teachers, as well as College students for helping out, ensuring that the day ran smoothly.



Thank you, and congratulations, to the PAG for organising such a wonderful morning of Memory Making Moments. We raised over R60 000, which will go towards building sports courts on campus. An announcement will be made about this soon!

MATRIC DANCE INVITATIONS



On 13 February, our Matrics received their invitations to the Matric Dance and were given a taste of what was in store for them. Themed 'A Night in Morocco', the colourful invitation hinted at what the students can expect and sparked exciting ideas about outfit choices. "When I saw the pink and orange decor and learnt that the theme was 'A Night in Morocco', I was pleasantly surprised because it matches the colour of my dress. I'm very excited about the dance as I've been planning it since Grade 9. I'm excited to have fun with my friends, see everyone's outfits and create lasting memories of our final year in College." ~ Mpume

Thank you to our Matric parents for making this such a special milestone.

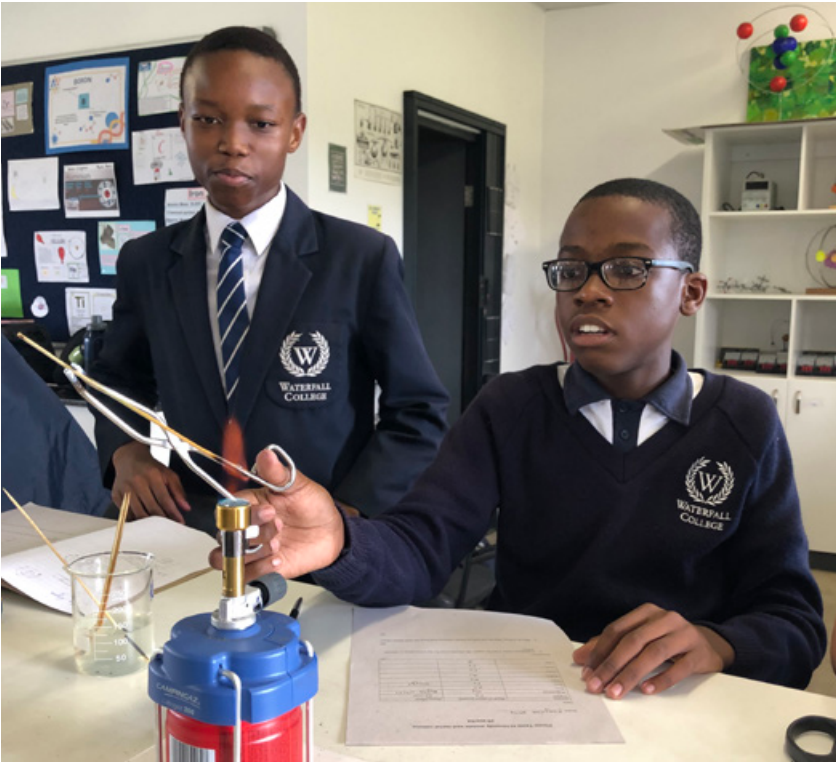
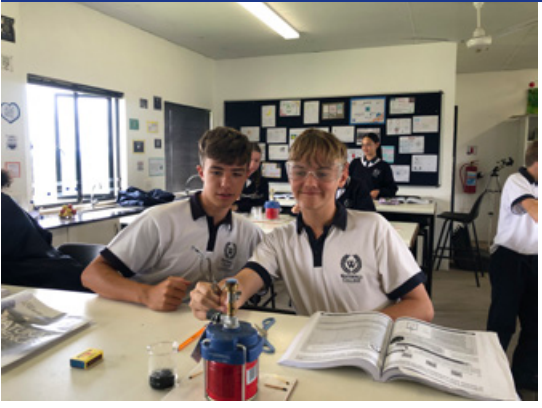
GRADE 8 LEADERSHIP CAMP



The Grade 8 students visited Non-Stop Adventures in Baynesfield for two days in January. The group immersed themselves in the thrill of team-building activities. From tackling the obstacle course to rafting on the river, soaring on the zip-line and conquering their fears on the abseiling wall, every moment was filled with excitement and camaraderie. The serene surroundings, coupled with laughter and teamwork, strengthened friendships and created memories that will last a lifetime. The large hall became a hub for shared meals and reflection, rounding off a truly enriching experience.

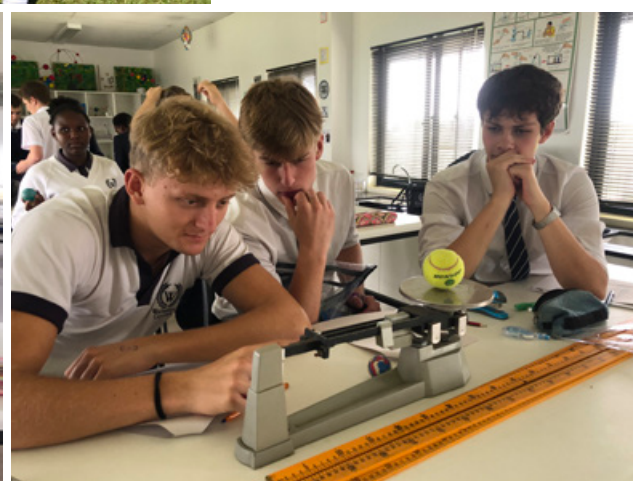
Thank you to Ms Lever (Head of Grade), Mr Kyle (Head of Students), Mrs Koekemoer and Mrs Bird (class teachers), as well as class prefects Phume and Trinity for accompanying the students.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES



The Physical Sciences lab has been filled with exciting experiments and explosions. Our Grade 9 and 10 students have been learning about the periodic table, the atom and writing chemical formulae. Although the Grade 9s found it a little challenging, they learned how to build molecules with playdough. We have also begun to study types of reactions, beginning with the reaction of metals with oxygen, where students used scientific equipment to observe these reactions. While learning about the periodic table, the Grade 10 classes explored chemical bonding and, after much practise, they finally figured out how to draw Lewis dot diagrams for compounds. We also built molecular models from marshmallows and, at the end of the lessons, toasting them for a tasty treat. We ended the term by learning about periodic trends, observing the reactivity of lithium, sodium and potassium. The Grade 11 class has been ploughing through Newton's Laws of Motion, learning about the forces that act on a body when it slips down a slide and completed a practical on Newton's Second Law using the Pasco equipment. The Grade 12s have created many collisions in class, between balls, cars and anything else that won't break. They learned about momentum and vertical projectile motion, performing practical tasks on both topics.

~ Mrs Goodrick ~



LIFE SCIENCES



Term 1 was all about ecology for the Grade 8s and 10s. From visits to the wetland to creating self-sustaining bottle ecosystems, our students got hands on and fully immersed themselves in the topic. The Grade 11s and 12s carried out challenging and fun practicals, which required precision and attention to detail. The Grade 12s enjoyed creating a 3D model of a DNA molecule and worked in groups to create a specific code for an individual, after which the groups swapped around and decoded the DNA to figure out which 'character' the DNA belonged to. It has been an incredibly busy, fun and rewarding term for all involved in Life Sciences.

~ Mrs Gilmour ~



ENGLISH

Earlier this month, some of our English teachers attended the IEB English Home Language User Group Conference where the theme for this year's Grade 12 Common Assessment Task was hinted at. We listened to a very interesting presentation by South African author, Hannes Barnard, on storytelling and, from that, we can expect this year's topic to be focussed on an author's purpose. This refers to the underlying intent of a piece of writing. It is the reason why an author chooses to communicate their thoughts, ideas or information through the text. We are excited to engage with this theme, next term, and develop the unique voices of our Matric students through their writing.

~ Mrs Patterson ~

AFRIKAANS



Our department kicked off another busy year by welcoming a new Afrikaans teacher, Mrs Vinnicombe, who will be teaching Grades 8, 9 and 11.

The Grade 8s settled in well, starting with a prepared speech introducing themselves to their teacher and new classmates. They are focusing on basic language skills, such as word order and tenses, while also expanding their vocabulary. Our Grade 9s' prepared speeches focused on their interests and hobbies. They have been enjoying their set book, *Selfone, Skelms en Sjokolade*.

The Grade 10s gave speeches on locations around the world. We enjoyed hearing about the beautiful places they have visited or hope to visit in the future.

Our Grade 11s concentrated on short stories and began understanding story elements in preparation for *Tuimeltrein*, the new Matric set book that we will start in Term 3. They also tackled more complex language structures and delivered speeches on their dream jobs.

The Matrics started the year with a film study, as usual. This is their third genre, which forms part of their school-based assessment, but isn't tested or examined in the rest of the year.

This year, we are celebrating 100 years of Afrikaans. More details will follow next term!

~ Ms Koekemoer ~

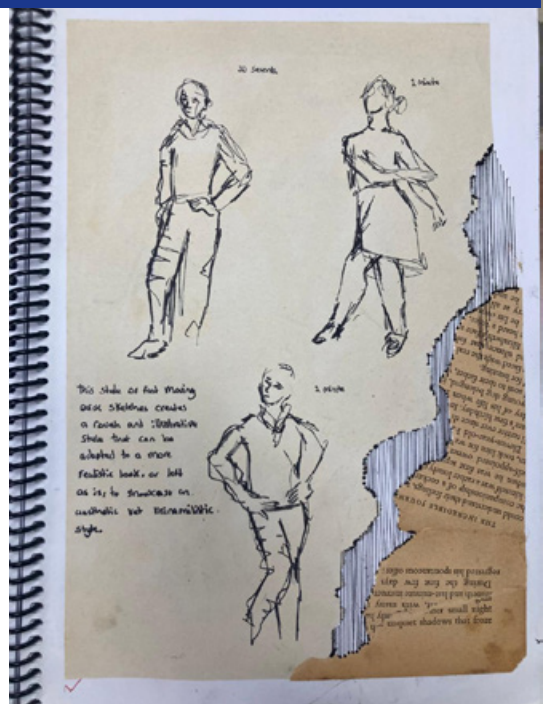
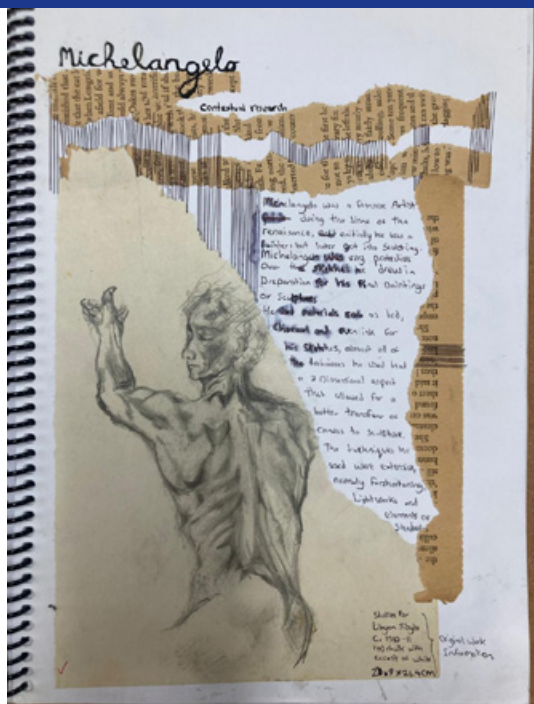
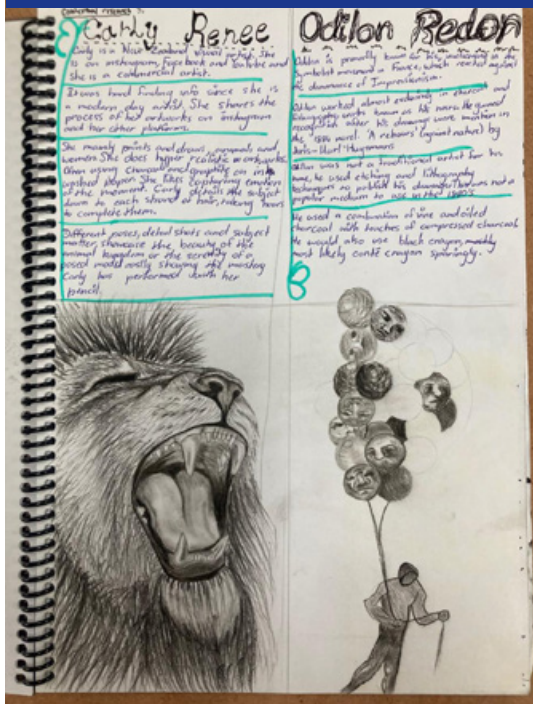
ISIZULU

The Matric Class of 2024 has set a new benchmark for isiZulu at Waterfall College, achieving remarkable results in their final year. Their success reflects not only their dedication but also the continuous growth and enhancement of isiZulu teaching and learning across all grades.

During this term, we have explored themes such as relationships, culture, technology and the challenges faced by young people in South Africa. These themes were woven into grammar lessons, creative writing and oral activities this term, preparing students to thrive in South Africa's diverse, multilingual and multicultural society. A strong emphasis on pair, group, and individual work has boosted students' confidence this term, enabling them to produce high-quality work independently.

~ Mr Shange ~

VISUAL ART

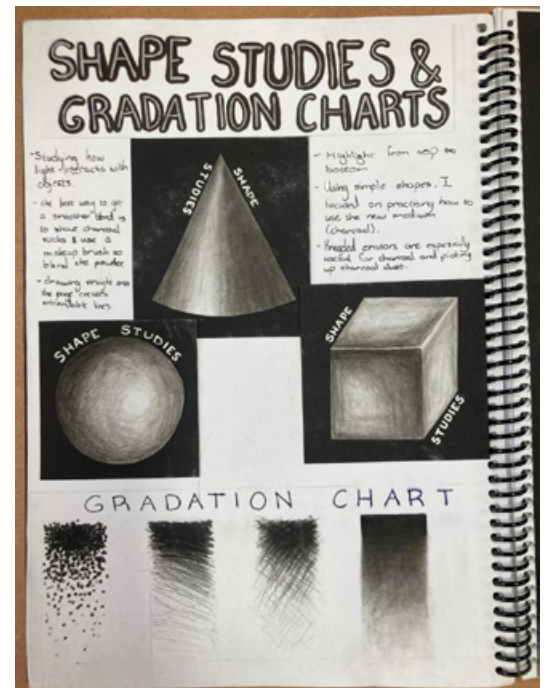
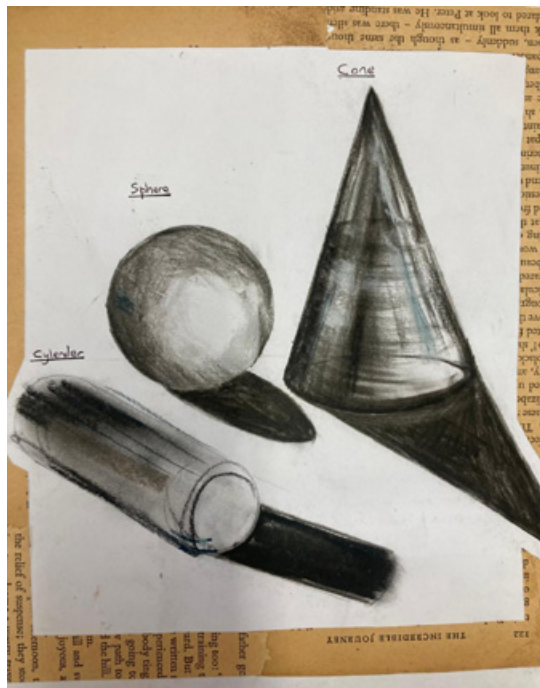
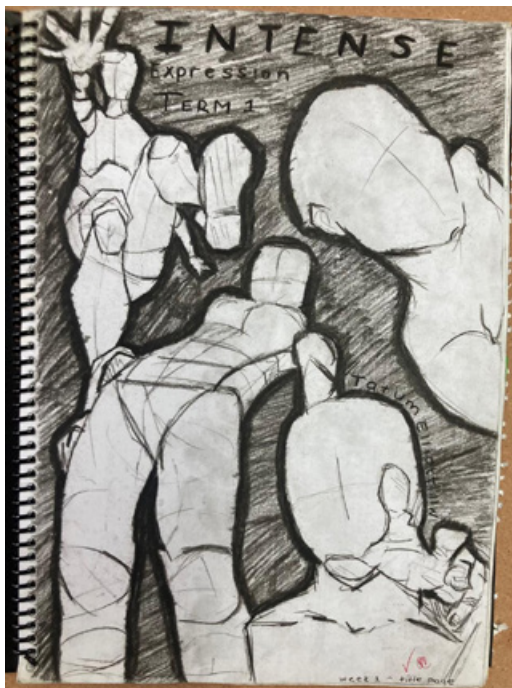


The Visual Art students are making the most of the new Art Room, which provides plenty of space for creativity and expression. With large work areas and an inspiring environment, students are exploring new techniques and developing their artistic skills. Our Grade 8s explored the elements of art, experimenting with different techniques in their journals. This foundational work helps them build confidence as they explore colour, line, texture and more. Meanwhile, the Grade 10s started their still-life pencil drawings, refining their observational skills and mastering shading and proportion.

The Grade 11s took on the challenge of charcoal and foreshortening, producing striking and dynamic pages in their journals (pictured). Their work demonstrates bold mark-making and a keen understanding of perspective. At the same time, the Matrics are fully immersed in their final projects, preparing for their final journal entries and artworks with dedication and focus.

With so much creativity flowing, the new Art Room has truly become a space where imagination comes to life!

~ Mrs Webb ~



MATHEMATICS

We excitedly kicked off the year with an engaging and dynamic curriculum designed to inspire a love for Mathematics. The Grade 8s benefitted from an online bridging course through the Neo Series Platform, which lays a strong foundation for high school maths. As a department, our goal is not only to develop mathematical skills, but to foster a growth mindset, encouraging students to embrace challenges and see mistakes as learning opportunities.

This term, students got the opportunity to participate in the Maths Olympiad, which will enhance their understanding, showcase their ability and, most importantly, spark curiosity in the subject.

We encourage all students to stay engaged and ask questions in class, as we are here to support them every step of the way. Here's to a successful and exciting Term 2 of learning!

~ Mrs Bird ~

COMMERCE

Our Grade 11s kicked off the year with a detailed analysis of the business environments, with students already tackling Grade 12 content. With the theme of clothing retail, we started with the Micro Environment, where we looked at the different business functions. Students worked in pairs and researched different clothing retailers. They researched the vision and mission, as well as the different departments and functions of their respective clothing retailers. They then presented their findings to the rest of the class. This was a great way to hone students' research skills and gain valuable insight on the different clothing retailers, which will ultimately help them understand the subject better and perform well in their assessments.

~ Ms de Chalin ~

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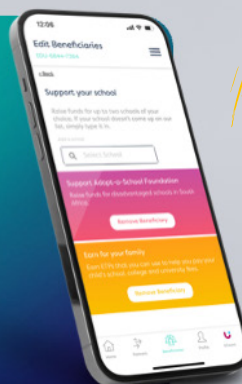
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DRAMATIC ARTS



This term was filled with creativity and exploration for all our Drama students.

Our Grade 9s delved into the practical aspects of Drama, creating 3D stage set models, including cloud designs. They also explored cultural storytelling through movement and crafted masks inspired by cultures from around the world.

Grade 10s focused on children's theatre and had the opportunity to perform for Waterfall Prep as part of their practical assessment. Their production, inspired by the film *Inside Out*, was a highlight of the term for students on both sides of the campus.

Meanwhile, Grade 11s have been preparing for their realism monologues in anticipation of the upcoming Speech and Drama Festival. Both the Grade 10s and 11s participated in a practical Pilates session with Kayla from Stretch Pilates, aimed at enhancing mindfulness, posture and movement – key skills for any performer. A strong mind-body connection is essential in Drama and our students are continuously encouraged to develop this awareness to authentically bring their characters to life.

Additionally, the Grade 10 to 12 Dramatic Arts students have committed to attending a formal theatre production at The Playhouse Company each term. This term, they watched *My Fair Lady* – an experience that was both inspiring and unforgettable.

We look forward to another term of growth and artistic expression in Drama as preparations for the school play, titled ***Beyond the Wardrobe***, are in full swing!

~ Ms Kruger ~



CONSUMER STUDIES

Our Grade 12 students have spent this term hard at work preparing for their IEB Practical Assessment Task (PAT), with the exciting theme of Novelty Cakes. They've been experimenting with a variety of sponge cakes, honing their skills in both baking and decorating using different icing techniques. It's been a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their creativity and precision as they prepare for their final assessment.

Our Grade 11 students kicked off the term with a hands-on session making delicious cinnabons, which were a huge hit! They thoroughly enjoyed the process and were able to improve their dough-making skills while learning about the importance of timing and consistency in baking.

The Grade 10 students started with the basics, learning how to make pancakes and crumpets. Their enthusiasm for the subject is palpable and they are embracing each practical lesson with excitement. It's been fantastic to see them develop not only their culinary skills, but also their ability to think creatively and express themselves through food.

Overall, the students are embracing the subject with great energy, enjoying the practical lessons that allow them to experiment, create and learn in the kitchen. We're looking forward to seeing their progress and the innovative cakes and treats they will produce in the coming months.

~ Ms Lever ~



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SCAN TO SIGN UP



SPORT

What an exhilarating start we've had to the year. We kicked off with our Karate students participating in a provincial tournament. Later in the term, we had students compete in national champion levels, which afforded them the potential to represent South Africa, which we are extremely excited about.

Our Athletics team has been competing in the aQuelle Athletics Series in Pietermaritzburg this term against schools like Glenwood High School, DHS, Maritzburg College, Curro Hillcrest and Westville Boys High School. They competed in four competitions, representing our school well. Chinonso Ibeh's best performance was in the mens' U20 long jump, placing 7th out of 28 athletes. Leo Kimble broke school records in the high jump, clearing 1,8m and placing second. The season concluded with inter-house athletics on 17 and 19 March. Well done to all those who competed.

Our Cricket lads have shown true growth and grit, producing outstanding results in spite of having so many of their fixtures cancelled due to rainy weather. However, they remained positive and played their hearts out when they had the opportunity to.

Our Hockey girls continued to churn out impressive results and represented the school in field hockey in the Geloftse Night Series. This year, we finished fourth overall for the Night Series, while winning most of our indoor fixtures. Additionally, we were invited to compete in the Spar First Teams Hockey Tournament for the first time. This was a great opportunity for our students to sharpen their skills and play in a tournament that was



Karate champs: Bryce, Layla and Connor



Athletics team: Keira, Bryce, Leo, Chinonso and Yamkelani

broadcast on DStv's SuperSports Schools.

This year, we're playing Touch Rugby in Terms 1 and 4 and this term was a great learning experience with valuable lessons. We took part in the Wartburg Festival, which allowed us to see what we still need to work on. As usual, it proved to be a lot of fun for the students.

We look forward to what Term 2 has in store for us, as we focus on cross country, Get Active, field hockey for both boys and girls, 7s rugby, Karate, netball and recreational Volleyball.

~ Mr Mthalande ~



Continues...

SPORT



Wartburg Tournament – 8 March 2025



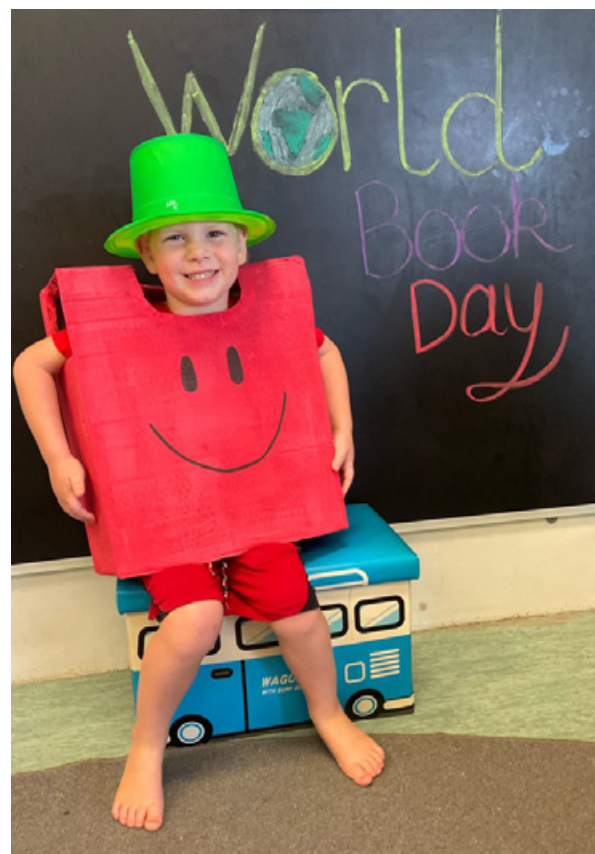
NEWS FROM THE PRE-PRIMARY

We were fortunate to have counselling psychologist Amanda Seidler attend our Parent Evening, sharing valuable insights to help our children thrive. Afterwards, parents took part in art activities in the classrooms, creating surprises for their little ones to discover the following day. With the support of our dedicated teachers and wonderful parents, we are ready to provide each child with the love and opportunities they need to flourish and succeed.

Our children had a delightful Valentine's Day celebration, featuring a cake sale and civvies outfits. We inspire them to express their love for their classmates, teachers, family and, most importantly, to cherish themselves. A heartfelt thank you to the Red Group parents for contributing items for the cake sale. We are excited to see what will be bought with the proceeds to gift an iThemba school in need.

Our fantastic team of staff participated in a team-building session on a Saturday morning, where we had the chance to tap into our inner Picassos. We enjoyed refreshing mocktails while embracing a sip-and-paint theme and, afterward, we enjoyed a meal together. Everyone cherished those tranquil moments spent at school and getting to mingle.

As book enthusiasts, we celebrated World Book Day on 6 March to teach the little ones about the joys of reading and even dressed up as Book Characters. Imagination is a child's best friend and a fantastic way to spark curiosity in your little ones is through reading to them. This is also a great way to spend quality time with them.



NEWS FROM THE PREP

GRADE 3



The Grade 3 adventure set sail with a wave of excitement! Meeting new teachers, reuniting with old friends and stepping into the role of the 'big fish' in the Foundation Phase made for a fantastic start to the year. With eager hearts and curious minds, we dived into learning about the five oceans, their different layers and the marine life that call them home. One of the highlights of the term was our trip to the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board. The pupils were hooked as they discovered jaw-some facts about sharks and even got to witness a messy fish dissection! To wrap up the day, we felt the sand between our toes and enjoyed an ice cream at Umhlanga Beach.

We made a big splash on Valentine's Day with our Grade 3 Cake Sale. Not only did we enjoy delicious treats, but we also spread love and kindness by giving our friends a heart with a word of affirmation to stick into their Kindness Jar. It was a wonderful way to remind each other of the power of kind words and the joy of sharing love with friends. To wrap up an unforgettable first term, we celebrated three months in Grade 3 with a cozy pyjama and pizza party! It was the perfect way to end on a high tide, combining fun, laughter and even a little extra fraction practice along the way. We are excited to continue riding the wave of learning in Term 2, ready to discover even more treasures along the way!

~ Mrs Harburn and Mrs Warmington ~





I often asked myself, where this Programme has been all my life? I've made so many mistakes with my older children, but I'm committed to doing better with my younger ones while I still have the chance. The more I engaged with the Programme, the more I realized how much I needed to change. Thank you, Focus on iThemba, for bringing hope into our home.

- Parent

2024 HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

When parents are intentionally involved in their child's life, their academic performance is enhanced, contributing to their overall success in school. They experience improved self-esteem and motivation to learn.

Understanding the role that parents play in positively or negatively influencing a child's formative development is the motivation behind the establishment of this [Programme](#). Ultimately, it seeks to advocate for the wellness and healthy development of children by focusing on educating and empowering parents with the knowledge and tools to raise highly resilient and capable children. We facilitate an 8-week interactive workshop to parents of the under-served communities we operate in in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, and have seen it help parents cultivate stronger, more meaningful relationships with their children.

Our commitment to strengthening families through the efforts of this Programme remained a priority last year. We acknowledge the work of our two wonderful Social Workers, Lunga Nxumalo and Noluthando Moshesh, for their devotion to the Programme, and the powerful impact it has had on changing lives.



WE REACHED

400

PARENTS LAST YEAR

97.4%

WERE FEMALE

59.5%

WERE UNEMPLOYED

02.6%

WERE MALE

40.5%

WERE EMPLOYED

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The workshops are interactive in nature and offer parents the chance to share their personal experiences in a safe, supportive and non-judgemental environment. Our trained facilitators are qualified Social Workers who both have a wealth of knowledge and experience dealing with families and communities.

A few of the topics looked at:

- Understanding and applying boundaries
- Time management and respecting other people's time
- Discipline versus punishment
- Identity and self esteem
- Understanding the different parenting styles
 - Family support
- Effective communication





EXTRA LESSONS WITH THE SCHOOL THAT REALLY CARES

Let our qualified tutors help your child (from Grade 1 to 12) gain confidence and improve their academic results, either online or on campus.



GRADE 1 TO 3

English (literacy, phonics, spelling, reading, handwriting), Mathematics (numeracy, bonds, tables, problem solving), Afrikaans and isiZulu.

COST:

Group (up to 5) – R125 per ½ hour
1-on-1 – R183 per ½ hour

GRADE 4 TO 7

English, Mathematics, Afrikaans, isiZulu, IT, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences.

COST:

Group (up to 5) – R245 per hour
1-on-1 – R367 per hour

GRADE 8 TO 9

English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, Mathematics, IT, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and EMS.

COST:

Group (up to 5) – R245 per hour
1-on-1 – R367 per hour

GRADE 10 TO 12

English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Further Studies in Mathematics, Accounting, History, Geography, EGD, Business Studies, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Visual Arts and IT.

COST:

Group (up to 5) – R245 per hour
1-on-1 – R367 per hour

**For more information, call 031 710 1835 or 082 441 0093
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www.waterfallonline.co.za