



Union High School

Headmaster's Newsletter

Term 1 | March 2024



The Class of 2023 achieved an outstanding 98.4% pass rate in the NSC examination. With only one out of 61 candidates falling short of the pass requirements, it was a remarkable display of dedication and hard work from the learners and educators alike. Furthermore, the top 6 candidates distinguished themselves by achieving A aggregates. Caitrin Spence - 9 distinctions, achieving an outstanding 92.63%; Siphosethu Malotana - impressive performance with 6 distinctions, attaining a commendable 89%; Brigette Oelofsen - demonstrating excellence with 5 distinctions, securing a well-deserved 84%; Cadee Arends - an exceptional achievement of 6 distinctions with an impressive 83.29%; David Venter - notable performance with 4 distinctions, achieving a commendable 80.86%; Tayla Kingwill - demonstrating excellence with 3 distinctions, securing a remarkable 80%; Karl Venter - a commendable achievement of 5 distinctions, attaining an admirable 79.29%; Gemma Naude and Jenna-Lee Jansen each obtained 3 distinctions and an impressive average of 78.43%; Brent Hesselink - a commendable achievement of 3 distinctions with a notable average of 77.43%.

Dear Parents

The first academic term of the year is always busy and filled with a wide array of activities.

Our learners have been very busy, and we are grateful to you for your support of our children in their school life.

RIGHT:

Caitrin Spence (Class of 2023) was awarded the Rupert Achievement Award for being the top matric in Graaff-Reinet for 2023. Caitrin is pursuing a degree in B Com Actuarial Sciences at Stellenbosch University.



News from Term 1

Staff Matters

At the start of the year, we welcomed new staff to our school:

Ms Justene Matthews is the class teacher of Grade 7M, she is teaching a diverse range of subjects such as Life Skills and Art to the Grade 5 learners, Afrikaans and Natural Sciences and Technology to the Grade 7s and Life Orientation and PT to the Grade 6 girls.

Ms Tracy-lee Abels is the Class Teacher of Grade 6A and is teaching Mathematics to our Grade 5s and 6s, as well as Life Orientation and PT to the Grade 5 and 6 boys.

We are delighted to welcome back **Ms Danelle Botes** who has previously taught at our school and is the Class Teacher of Grade 8B. *She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team.*

Mrs Botes is teaching Geography to our Grade 10, 11, and 12 learners, Social Sciences to our Grade 8 and 9 students, as well as Life Orientation and PE to our Grade 8 and 9 learners.

Ms Sasha Bosch joins us as the Class Teacher of Grade 9B and is teaching Afrikaans FAL to our Grade 11 and 12 students, Life Orientation to our Grade 11 and 9 learners, and she is also be responsible for PE for our Grade 12, 10, 9 and 8 learners.

Mr Edorique Gouws is the new professional cricket coach and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role.

As a former provincial, as well as Premier League and National Community Cup T20 player, he has honed his skills on the field and understands the intricacies of the game.

In addition to his playing career, Mr Gouws holds a Level 2 Cricket South Africa coaching qualification.

This qualification, combined with his experience as a player, equips him with the necessary tools to guide and mentor Union High School's cricketers effectively.

Our thoughts remain with **Mr Stephen Bezuidenhout** who is on extended sick leave.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: Our educators are gearing up for an innovative year after an engaging introductory session on artificial intelligence (AI). As the educators familiarized themselves with this cutting-edge technology, they explored how AI can be harnessed to enhance the learning experience for their learners.



GRADE 8 ORIENTATION 2024

On 18 January, our Grade 8 learners set off bright and early on their highly anticipated annual orientation day hike, accompanied by park rangers, their educators and this year's prefects to the Camdeboo National Park's Environmental Education Centre, where they engaged in a range of educational and team building activities that promote personal growth and camaraderie.



On Thursday, 22 February, a group of Grade 12 learners had the privilege of attending a panel discussion led by Professor Jonathan Jansen at the **'Working World' exhibition** held at the Feathermarket Centre in Gqeberha. Professor Jansen's engaging and humorous presentation left the learners with thought-provoking reflections. He emphasized the importance of being teachable and humble, the value of academic achievements, the significance of giving their best efforts, the importance of passion for their work, readiness to adapt their careers and the essence of showing vitality in their pursuits, rather than being stagnant. The Grade 12s then explored the 'Working World' careers expo, where they encountered a diverse range of opportunities from over 100 Higher Education Institutions.

Academic Awards

The annual Academic Awards Assembly to acknowledge the learners who had attained high academic success during the course of last year was held on Friday, 19 January.

Academic Bars were awarded to Grade 6 learners: Adam Clark, Ryan Collett, Amelia King, Joshua Kingwill, Mason Knoesen, Angelique Kyanda-Kaboza, Ryonn Naude, Noël Shakane, Kari Stern, Nieke van Jaarsveld.

Academic Bars were awarded to Grade 7 learners: Isabella Tadesse, Kira Hector, Chante Bezuidenhout (Re-award), Miley Burger (Re-award), Clea Clark (Re-award), Aidan Ferreira (Re-award), Logan Marais (Re-award), Adriaan van Jaarsveld (Re-award), Rachel Wenham (Re-award).

Academic Bars were awarded to Grade 8 learners: John-Henry King, Zoë Mills, Cayla Newton, Carlen Prinsloo, Kwakhanya Ntlonti, Alyssa Trollip, Zunaida Deysel (Re-award), Antonia Adams (Re-award), Gerda Clarke (Re-award), Isabella Hulleman (Re-award).

Academic Ties were presented to Grade 9 learners: Kirsten Collett, Richard Murray, Amber Slater

Academic Ties were awarded to Grade 10 learners: Misha Newton, Amber Bezuidenhout (Re-award), Samantha Charles (Re-award), Ciara Kivedo (Re-award), Anebel Norval (Re-award), Jade Palmer (Re-award), Katelyn Trollip (Re-award).

Half colours were awarded to Grade 11 learners: Muhammad Ahmed, Tara Ferreira, Ndodana Speelman, Aminah Steele.

Full colours were awarded to Grade 11 learners: Erin Gedult, Trystan Hulleman, Sarah Jacobs, Kenza Neill, Megan Nortjé, Milani Pongoma.

Half colours were awarded to Grade 12 learners: Tyra Binney (Re-award), Charlize Vorster (Re-award)

Full colours were awarded to Grade 12 learners: Joshua Neill, Caytah-Leigh Koeberg (Re-award), Na'eem Mahomed (Re-award), Joy Merifield (Re-award), Sarah Wilmot (Re-award).

RCL & Class Representatives

Congratulations to the following learners who were elected by their peers to serve on our Representative Council of Learners:

Grade 8: Konke Gawula, Asakhula Nkomo, Philip Kayster, Kay-Leigh Hartney.

Grade 9: Imivuyo Nondlazi, Chulumanco Xhamela, Liso Sobantu, Kirsten Collett, Dwayne Koeberg, Angus Kretzmann.

Grade 10: Josh Arends, Melissa Naudé, Lebogang Booysen, Misha Newton, Liso Booï, Xarah Hoffman.

Grade 11: Muhammed Ahmed, Aminah Steele, Shaakir Kazi, Milani Pongoma.

Grade 12: Joshua Swartland, Lisakhanya Zonke, Max Price, Ann-Noleen Koeberg

Congratulations to Grade 12 learners Lisakhanya Zonke and Ann-Noleen Koeberg who were elected, respectively, as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of our 2024 Representative Council of Learners (RCL).

The Representative Council of Learners (RCL) and Interact Club joined forces throughout 2023 **to raise an amount of R5 000 for the Graaff-Reinet Cancer Association**. The culmination of these efforts was marked by a heartfelt handover ceremony. Lisakhanya Zonke, an executive RCL member in 2023 and the current Chairperson of the RCL, had the privilege of presenting the raised funds to Mrs Maxie van Aswegen of the Graaff-Reinet Cancer Association.

On 1 March, Mr Lumphumlo Joka, an Old Unionite and the head of Global Leadership Consultants, exemplified the principles of servant leadership during his visit to our school. **Mr Joka spent time guiding and coaching our newly-elected RCL body in a training session**, which *encouraged them to embrace personal growth and strive to become the best versions of themselves. They were then tasked with developing a clear vision for their school, laying the foundation for a successful learner leadership campaign.* The message of finding one's own voice and confidently occupying leadership roles undoubtedly inspired our young leaders. It instilled in them a strong desire to fulfil their potential and become the leaders they were meant to be.



SALISBURY EXCHANGE: Old Unionites Gemma Naude, Anna Pringle and Brent Hesselink, Class of 2023, are spending the year at the Salisbury Cathedral School in Salisbury, Wiltshire, UK, as this year's gap students.

Sporting Matters

ATHLETICS

On Friday, 2 February, the annual Junior Interhouse Athletics Day for Grade 1 to 7 learners took place.

Congratulations to Arnott House, who clinched the victory with an impressive 1446 points, compared to Daly's 1314 points. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following learners who set new records in their respective events: Kim-Lynn Finnis: u/11 Girls' 80m and 100m; Taylor Jacobs: u/11 Girls' 800m; Raydon Hendricks: u/11 Boys' 800m; Ryonn Naude: u/12 Boys' 800m; Haley Krige: u/12 Girls' 800m; Angelique Kyanda-Kaboza: u/12 Girls' High Jump; Grant Murray: u/11 Boys' Shotput

On 29 January, the annual **Senior Interhouse Athletics Day** took place. The following athletes must be commended on their outstanding performances: Qhama Solomon (u/15): 1st place in 400m with a time of 1:04.45s, 2nd place in 100m, 1st place in Long Jump; Onika Jantjies (u/15): 1st place in 200m with a time of 32.16s, 2nd place in 800m, 3rd place in 400m; Nadine Murray (u/15): 1st place in 3 000m with an impressive time of 13:50.64, 1st place in 800m and 1500m, 3rd place in Long Jump; Kyle Liebenberg (u/17): 1st place in Shot Put, Discus and the 200m; Aaminah Steele (u/17): 3rd place in 1 000m, 6th place in 3 000m, 3rd place in 1 500m; Katelyn Trollip (u/17): 1st place in Shot Put (7.92m), 1st place in 1 500m; Anna Bouwer (u/17): 1st place in High Jump and Long Jump, 2nd place in 100m and 200m; Tara Ferreira (u/17): 1st place in Discus, 2nd place in Shot Put and Javelin; Leigh-Ann Murray (u/17): 1st place in 3 000m and 200m; Ben Lemke (u/17): 1st place in the 3000m and 800m, 3rd in the 400m; Dylan Kivedo (u/19): 1st place in High Jump, 2nd place in Long Jump, 3rd place in 100m, 200m, and 3 000m; Joshua Swaartland (u/19): 1st place in 100m (11.51s) and Long Jump; Charlize Vorster (u/19): 1st place Long Jump, 2nd place in 400m, 3rd place in 3 000m and 200m, 4th place in Shot Put and 800m; Joy Merifield (u/19): 1st place in 100m, 200m and 800m, 2nd place in 3 000m and high jump, Ethan Linch (u/19): 1st place in 800m, 1 500m and 3 000m, Sarah Wilmot (u/19): 1st place in High Jump and Javelin; Tyra Binney (u/19): 1st place in 3 000m, 800m, 2nd place in 1 500m; Finn Cilliers (U/19): Dominated in throwing events with 1st place in Javelin, Discus and 2nd place in Shot Put.

The junior athletes who were selected to represent Union at the zonal athletics meet for primary schools being held at the Botanics Sports Grounds on Thursday, 8 February are: **Grade 5** Kim-Lynne Finnis, Raydon Hendricks, Taylor Jacobs (withdrew), Grant Murray, Preston Owusu, Mackenzie Preston, **Grade 6** Lukhona Bulembu, Matthew Cristoffels, Hayley Krige, Angelique Kyanda-Kaboza, Dante Mills, Hermon Wolde, **Grade 7** Miley Burger, Jordan Maritz, Mbuso Tini, Joubert Vorster and Rachel Wenham.

Following the zonal athletics meeting held at the Botanics Sports Grounds, the Graaff-Reinet Primary Schools' CMC Athletics Team was selected to represent the

district at the Sarah Baartman District Championships held at Gqeberha's Westbourne Oval on Wednesday, 14 February. We congratulate the following athletes who were chosen to represent the Union Schools at this event: Raydon Hendricks - High Jump, Grant Murray - Shotput, Hermon Wolde - High Jump, Angelique Kyanda-Kaboza - High Jump, Dante Mills - Shotput, Joubert Vorster - Shotput, Jordan Maritz - High Jump.

On Saturday, 10 February, several athletes participated across various disciplines at the **Beyers Naudé High School Athletics Meet** held at Hoër Volkskool, with their stellar performances earning several of them the opportunity to represent the Dr Beyers Naudé Municipality at the Sarah Baartman Athletics Meet in Gqeberha, on Wednesday, 21 February. Congratulations to: Peter-Daniel Clegg, Josh Arends, Kyla Putter, Jayden Oodendaal, Xavier Barlow, Dylan Kivedo, Caytah-Leigh Koeberg, Tara Ferreira and Kyle Liebenberg.

BIATHLON

In January, Ben Lemke represented the school in the u/17 boys' category at the 5th Biathlon League event held in Gqeberha. When the final scores were tallied, a total of 2043.78 points saw Ben emerge as the overall champion of the boys u/17 event. Ben also participated in the EP Biathlon Championships in Gqeberha and claimed a commendable second place in the run within his age group, and placed third in the swim event, resulting in an overall third position in the Eastern Cape.

CRICKET

The 17th annual edition of our festival, sponsored by Standard Bank, took place in early January, and saw matches played on the Murray and Puttick fields as well as at the Botanics Sports Club, Hoër Volkskool, Asante Sana Private Game Reserve and Wheatlands FarmWe welcomed Stirling High School, East London, Edgemead High School, Westering High School, Hoërskool DF Malherbe, Hoër Tegniese skool Daniel Pienaar Technical High School, Lilyfontein School, Hoërskool Nico Malan, Victoria Park High School, Rand Park High School, Fairmont High School and Cradock High School.

Congratulations to 1st XI captain, Shaakir Kazi, who earned his 50th cap for the first team. Shaakir was presented Shaakir with special commemorative cap.

CYCLING

Well done to sisters Jenelle and Shana Theron, as well as little Reece Gibbons, who participated and did exceptionally well at the recent **Sneeuberg Crawl MTB Race**.

The 25km Girls' category, saw Jenelle, a Grade 11 learner, emerging as the frontrunner, securing the 1st place position. Not far behind was Shana, a Grade 5 learner, who claimed 2nd place. Reece Gibbons, also a Grade 5 learner, secured the 3rd place spot.

In addition to winning the Girls' category, Jenelle also secured the 1st place overall among all the competing women, while Shana and Reece claimed the 1st and 2nd spot, respectively, in the u/12 age group.

HOCKEY

The Union AstroTurf was officially re-opened during the School's annual Founders' Weekend celebrations.

Underneath the blue skies, the school's hockey players, along with their parents, staff, friends of the Union Schools and Old Unionites gathered on the pristine turf for the special ceremony. With great joy and a shared sense of accomplishment, the ceremonial red ribbon was cut, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the Union Schools.

We congratulate Klara van Jaarsveld (Grade 5) and Miley Burger (Grade 7) who were selected for the ECHS u/13 invitational hockey team, which will see them represent their school and country as they embark on an exciting tour to the Netherlands later this year.

Our 1st hockey team, travelled to Bethlehem for the pre-season **'Balling Hockey Tournament'** hosted by Bethlehem Voortrekker High School. They played against Bethlehem Voortrekker High School, Epworth High School, Hoërskool Sasolburg, Oranje Meisieskool 2nd XI, Hoër Volksskool Potchefstroom and Hoërskool Monument.

On Monday, 2 March, we hosted Hoërskool Pearson High School for a very competitive hockey fixture.

The u/14A team lost 0-1, the u/16A 0-4 and the 1st Team lost 1-2. Armed with lessons learnt from this encounter against one of SA's top hockey sides, the girls travelled to Gqeberha on 9 March, where they competed at the EP hockey trials: vs Victoria Girls 2-0, vs Framesby 0-0, vs Brandwag 1-0.

Our U/16 Hockey Team, accompanied by their coach Ms Arijana Botha, participated in **Pearson High School's annual u/16 Hockey Festival** from 16-18 March where they played Collegiate, DSG, Woodridge and Brandwag.

Our 1st senior hockey girls participated in the annual Greg Beling Hockey Festival from 14-17 March in East London. Results: vs Clarendon Girls' High 0-0, vs Hoërskool Sasolburg 2-1, vs Duineveld 1-0, and vs Witteberg 2-1.

Our junior hockey girls enjoyed a fantastic start to their season with impressive results against DSG in Makhanda. U/13C 3-0, U/13B 1-0, and U13/A 2-2.

RUGBY

On Friday, 23 February, our boys participated in Hoër Volksskool's 2024 **Drieë Druk Aand** - a pre-season tournament that allows rugby teams the opportunity to effectively finalise their pre-season preparations in a competitive yet relaxed and accommodating environment.

On Saturday, 2 March, the 1st XV played against DF Malherbe in their first official game at the Gill College Sports Day and won the game 5-0. The U16 Team defeated Aeroville 28-7. On Saturday 9 March, the 1st XV played against Hoërskool Despatch at the **Despatch Sports Festival and lost 0-19. The U/13A team travelled to the Graeme College Rugby Day: vs Kenton 15-19, vs St. Mary's 0-29.** They then travelled to Durban for the DHS Festival, taking place from 18-20 March. On the Friday, 15 March 2024 the 1st XV participated in the annual Graeme College Festival and lost to Daniel Pienaar 6-48. The U/16 team lost 5-36.

SWIMMING

Our learners participated in the **100th River Mile** at Cannonville on the Sunday's River on Sunday, 21 January. The Men's Mile saw Max Price, Joshua Basson, Ben Lemke, Mark Lemke, Daniel Davenport, Daniel Marais and Danté Mills participating, while the Ladies' Mile saw Catie Davenport, Zoë Mills, Angelique Kyanda-Kaboza, Gerda Clarke, Tyra Binney, Rebecca Copeman, Lisakhanya Zonke and Mecoli Vorster taking to the water.

Congratulations to Gerda Clarke, Alyssa Trollip, Zoë Mills, Esethu Mabula, Mark Lemke and Ben Lemke who qualified to compete at the **SA Schools Trials** being held in East London on Saturday, 17 February.

The annual **Interschools Gala** between the Union Schools and Volksskool, held on 13 February, was a thrilling and closely contested event. In the senior category, the final score was 364 points to Volksskool and 323 points to Union. Ben Lemke broke the 50m Breaststroke record, winning six races and earning the prestigious title of Victor Ludorum for senior boys. Alyssa Trollip broke the 50m Freestyle record and secured victory in four races.

In the primary school section, Volksskool claimed a total of 619 points, while Union accumulated 567 points. Taylor Jacobs secured 1st place in the 50m Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle races, 4th place in the 100m Freestyle (Grade 5 to 7) race and 2nd place in the u/12 4x25m IM race.

Daniel Davenport claimed 1st place in the u/12 4x25m IM and another set of 1st places in the 50m Freestyle and Butterfly races and 100m Grade 5 to 7 Freestyle race. He also came a close second in the 50m Breaststroke and Backstroke events.

Ben Lemke, Zoë Mills and Gerda Clarke made their mark at the **SA Schools' Swimming Trials in East London on 17 February**. Representing the Sarah Baartman District Team, these athletes competed against formidable opponents, with two of them clinching well-deserved medals. Ben impressed in 8 events, achieving great results: 1st place in the 200m Breaststroke and 100m Butterfly, 2nd place in the 200m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, and 100m Breaststroke, and 3rd place in the 50m Butterfly; while Zoë competed in 7 events and stood out with a medal-winning performance in the 200m Freestyle. Additionally, Zoë also secured 4th place in both the 50m and 200m Breaststroke events.

A total of 80 swimmers represented our schools at the annual **Karoo Gala** held at Hoër Volksskool on Wednesday, 21 February. In the primary school category our Grade 1 to 7 swimmers secured a commendable second place with 346 points.

In the senior section, our learners triumphed in the Girls' section and secured a strong second position in the Boys' section. Special recognition goes to Ben Lemke for his outstanding performance earning him the title of 'Victor Ludorum'.

On 5 March, a group of 11 swimmers from our schools proudly represented the Karoo at the annual **Inter-Districts Gala** held at DSG in Makhanda. The Karoo team secured victory with a total of 425 points.

Albany came in a close second with 414 points, and Amathole claimed third place with 268 points.

Special congratulations go to Taylor Jacobs who set a new record in the Girls' u/11 50m Backstroke event, recording a time of 39.21s. Taylor earned a gold medal in the Girls' u/11 50m Freestyle event, a silver medal in the 50m Butterfly event and another gold medal in the 50m Backstroke event; Daniel Davenport claimed a silver medal in both the u/11 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly events; Grant Murray secured bronze medals in both the Boys u/11 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke events.

TENNIS

Tara Ferreira participated in the **u/19 Inter-Provincial Tennis Tournament** in Pretoria from 10-13 January where she represented the Eastern Cape.

On 21 January, our Top 6 senior boys' and girls' tennis players competed against their traditional Grahamstown rivals, St Andrew's College, DSG, Graeme College, Victoria Girls' High and Kingswood

While every member of the Union team contributed positively, special recognition must be given to the new Grade 8 additions, Mia Botha and John-Henry King. These talented young individuals produced exceptional results by winning all of their respective singles' encounters.

Our Top 6 boys' and girls' tennis players travelled to Middelburg for an afternoon fixture against **Hoërskool Middelburg**, winning 19-5.

The boys' and girls' tennis players left for Bloemfontein on 29 February, where they competed in the annual **Fichardt Park Tennis Tournament**.

Congratulations to Amelia King who, alongside her u/12 Eastern Cape team, emerged victorious at the **Synergy Cup**, a prestigious interprovincial tournament held in Cape Town.

They secured an impressive win against the Boland Cavaliers with a score of 60-36, defeated Cape Town (Western Province) with a score of 54-42, and dominated the Northern Cape team with a score of 69-27, ultimately clinching the championship title.

John-Henry King represented the u/15 Eastern Cape Schools Tennis Team at the **Synergy Cup** (the South Interprovincial vs Western Province, Boland and Northern Cape), contested in Cape Town.

“Just try to be the best you can be; never cease trying to be the best you can be. That’s in your power.” – John Wooden

35th ANNUAL SENIOR RUGBY & HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The annual Senior Rugby & Hockey Festival hosted by Union High School was a resounding success this past weekend. The festival, now in its 35th year, took place from Thursday, March 21st to Sunday, March 24th on the school's impressive hockey AstroTurf and well-maintained rugby fields.

As a highly anticipated event on the Union Schools' calendar, the festival brought together coaches and players from various schools to enjoy the competitive spirit and camaraderie of hockey and rugby. This year, 16 rugby teams and 17 hockey teams from schools across the country participated in the festival.

According to festival convenor, Mr Calvin Beck, this year's festival was truly memorable, with exceptional sportsmanship and exciting rugby and hockey matches. The festival kicked off on Thursday with a cocktail party at The Tony Burrell Union, where the school's headmaster, William Pringle, expressed gratitude to the official sponsors, Botha's Garage and Astron Energy, for their support.

The following morning, the games began in earnest, with fierce competition on the hockey and rugby fields. For teams visiting from the city, the festival provided a unique opportunity for players to bond both on and off the field in a safe and beautiful environment.

The hosting boarding houses of Union and Volksskool did an excellent job accommodating approximately 600 children for the entire weekend. Visitors praised the smooth and efficient organisation of the festival, with daily tea breaks and delicious lunches and suppers provided.

After an exhilarating weekend of physical activity, the festival concluded on Sunday afternoon. The local teams performed admirably, with Union High School's 1st XV winning their matches against Hoërskool Dirkie Uys and Elspark High School, 24 – 3 and 17 – 10, respectively.

In the hockey tournament, Union's 1st hockey team showcased remarkable skill and determination throughout. They secured impressive victories against various opponents, ultimately winning the finals against Westering High School. The team's standout players included Katelyn Trollip, Leigh-Ann Murray, Sadé May, and Caytah-Leigh Koeberg.

Union's Invitation side also achieved commendable results, with notable performances against Dirkie Uys' 1st team and Clarendon High School. Goalkeeper Zanana Speelman demonstrated exceptional skills during an intense shootout.

Overall, the festival was a celebration of talent, teamwork and sportsmanship. The players left Graaff-Reinet with cherished memories and a sense of accomplishment.

Cultural Matters

ECO CLUB

Communication of plants and animals were topics of exploration and learning at the start and end of this term respectively. These fascinating facts led us to learn more about 'things we cannot see', namely frequency and sound waves.

Chanté Bezuidenhout presented an interesting lesson on Rainbows and Micha Murray taught us about Dolphins, with focus on the largest species, the Orca. Each learner ended his or her session with a fun game to reinforce new facts learned.

Being a summer term, we explored the subject of Mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit. We also looked at the symptoms, but most importantly, how to prevent these diseases. These lessons are relaxed, filled with fun facts, games or worksheets and learning opportunities which are both interesting and necessary.

GOD'S GARDEN

"The mind is a garden. Plant good seeds and harvest good fruits." Lao Tzu. While exploring the meaning of the above quote, we turned to the Bible to discover what is said about 'thoughts'.

We found that the Word speaks of the thoughts of our minds and the thoughts of our hearts - "Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts..." We delved deeper into the Word and discussed what the thoughts of our hearts are. We also discovered that for the most part, we can control our thoughts. In the garden, the Lord instructed Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We spent time discovering what is meant by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and then went on to learn what the Bible teaches us about 'the tongue'. Ecclesiastes 3 teaches us that there is a time for everything under the sun and we discussed how to use our time wisely. The term concluded with a Bible lesson on the Parable of the Sower, which included a short time in the garden, weeding out unwanted plants, while meditating on what this means practically in our lives.

MUSIC

Congratulations to Erin Gedult who achieved outstanding results in her recent ABRSM graded examination. Erin passed the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Theory Examination with an exceptional score of 92%. Erin passed her ABRSM Grade 6 Performance Graded Practical Examination with a score of 81% (Merit).

Congratulations to Kirsten Collett who successfully passed her recent Rockscool Practical Examinations with assurance. Kirsten played a Classical Rockscool Grade 1 Graded Certificate Examination and achieved 75% (Merit).

SPEECH EVENINGS

The Senior Speech Evening saw eight speakers from Grade 10-12 presenting their prepared speeches. The final results were extremely close with Asive Dwane taking a well-deserved second place for his speech on the topic, "*Remaining authentic in a world full of fakes*"; while Joy Merifield's speech "*A wise man speaks because he has something to say, a fool speaks because he has to say something*," displayed a good dose of humour coupled with wisdom and authenticity.

In the Junior Speech Evening, held earlier in the term, Azile Mqhamkana (Grade 9) secured first place, followed by Zusange Phehlukwayo (Grade 9) in second place and Konke Gawula (Grade 8) in third place.



ABOVE: Asive Dwane

BELOW: Joy Merifield



General News

FIRST AID

Congratulations to our newest First Aiders: Brogan Koeberg, Nombulelo Ncombo, Jemae-Mari Davids, Viwe Ngxekisa, Lina Tadesse, Taegen Hamid, Ciara Kivedo, Milani Pongoma, Lolwethu Dayimani and Sarah Jacobs who successfully completed their Level 1 First Aid in February.

FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Friday, 26 January, commemorated the school's annual Founders' Day with a special assembly in the School's 105th year. As the celebrations continued over the next two days, a deep sense of gratitude prevailed, recognising the past achievements and the limitless potential that lies ahead.

DRESS

We request that parents who are purchasing sports tackies for their children please consider whether the colour of the tackies is appropriate for use with the green and white Union sports uniform.

Red tackies, for example, do not look good when worn with our uniform. Further, when attending a school function, whether at school or at another school or venue, learners are expected to be dressed in school attire.

We request that parents support the school in this matter.

NEW PARENTS' TEA

On 16 January, a tea was hosted by the School to welcome all new parents to the Union Schools. As is customary, the Union was filled to capacity as new parents were introduced to the School's management in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN CALEDON STREET

We have written to all parents/guardians requesting your co-operation with respect to considerate and appropriate parking in Caledon Street at the end of the school day whilst parents and public transport are collecting children from school.

A reminder that all Grade 5-7 learners are released from the gate next to the school hall and may be collected in Donkin Street.

Older siblings of Grade 5-7 learners may also exit from this gate and be collected in Donkin Street alongside the St. James' Church Cemetery. Grades 8-12 learners will be released from the Bruce Maree Gates in Caledon Street.

BOARDING HOUSE MATTERS

The prefects of Arthur Kingwill House recently underwent a team-building adventure at Asante Sana Private Game Reserve.

The highlight of their experience was a 3-hour game drive, during which they were fortunate to see a lot of wildlife.

GOVERNING BODY MATTERS

It was with great pleasure that we announced the appointment of the new members who join the SGB for a 3-year term until 2027. The new members of the SGB Mr Kelvin Kayster (Chairperson), Mrs Ulrike Collett (Secretary), Mr Euan Hector, Mr George Hope, Mrs Jennifer Hope, Mr Justin Kingwill (Vice-chairperson), Mr Graham Murray, Mr Rhett Newton, Mrs Cheryl Waddelow (Treasurer), Mr Hanno Sparrius, Mr Elrich Jantjies, Mrs Hanli Rose-Innes and Mrs Mariëtte Burger, as well as learner representatives Ann-Noleen Koeberg, Na'eem Mahomed and Lisakhanya Zonke.

CLOTHING SHOP

The School Clothing Shop, which is housed at the high school for parents' and learners' convenience, is open from Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 13.00.

Important 2nd Term Dates

Wed, 3 April	School re-opens: 08:00 – 13:30
Thurs, 4 April	School times: 07:05 – 13:30 daily
Wed, 10 April	Senior Production: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (Dress Rehearsal)
Thurs, 11 April & Fri, 12 April	Senior Production: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 18:30 in the school hall
Mon, 15 April	Parent Meeting: Grade 5 to 12 in the school hall
Fri, 19 April	Summer Awards Assembly: 07:05 in the school hall
Tues, 30 April	Matric Farewell at the SA College for Tourism
Wed, 1-5 May	Compulsory Leave-out weekend with Special School Holidays
Mon, 6 May	Winter uniform compulsory
Mon, 20 May to Fri, 7 June	Grade 8 to 11 Examinations
Mon, 20 May to Mon, 10 June	Grade 12 Examinations
Fri, 24 May to Thurs, 6 June	Grade 5 to 7 Examinations
Thurs, 13 June	School closes for learners Report collection 12:00 – 13:00 in the school foyer
Fri, 14 June	School closes for staff
Fri, 14 June to Mon, 17 June	23rd Annual Anne Beagley Jnr Rugby & Hockey Festival

In Conclusion

May you enjoy a restful holiday with your children.

Yours faithfully,



MR W.E. PRINGLE
HEADMASTER

Senior Festival Highlights



"Continuous effort- not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.

- Winston Churchill
