

2023 Newsletter

Heatherbank Primary school



HELLO 2023!

We have enjoyed a year of GROWING and GLOWING!

Bursting at the seams with 222 learners, Nina and Ellen have led the team with gentle confidence. We thank our 14 teachers, 4 volunteers, social worker, remedial teachers, VC and NMU students, Amava volunteers, cleaners, bus driver, gardeners and handy men, for an incredible year of serving. What a resilient and powerful team.

2023 had its challenges, but we emerged stronger and bolder than before. We are grateful for the blessing of another successful year.



A NOTE FROM THE PRE PRIMARY



A busy, blessed and happy year sums up 2023.

Our pre-primary consists of an amazing team, lead by Miss Kelly and her helper, Miss Tami. Miss Clara and Miss Siphokaszi. Our busy Grade R's have had multiple loving teachers this year, including Miss Sethu, Miss Rebecca, Miss Karlize and Miss Coni.

Term 1 started with an outing to Kings Beach. Some children were fearless, jumping over waves, ready to swim and meet the dolphins, while others were more cautious, preferring to build sandcastles on the beach.

We were also treated to a morning of story telling as the Grade 6's kindly came to read books to the children.

In term 2, the Grade 0 and R classes were blessed with swimming lessons at Bay Eagle Aquatics Centre. Heading off each Thursday to the big indoor pool was very exciting. Soon, there were confident swimmers splashing and having great fun. Thank you to the coaches for their patience, and the gift of being water safe. We also loved our visits from our friends in Grade 2 at Harvest School. Playing and eating ice lollies together was so much fun. We hope to see you again next year.

The new sandpit with our mud kitchen was also a big hit. We loved building and baking.

In the third term, the Grade 0 and R classes visited Homeleigh Farm. The children loved feeding and interacting with the animals. They also enjoyed a tractor ride and played in a beautiful playground filled with fun activities. The baby class scooted around the bike track at Beans and jumped on the trampoline. Sports Day ended the term - running and having fun at the Oval with our Primary school friends! A delicious treat of juice, a hotdog and chips was a bonus treat.

Term 4 has been short and sweet. We said goodbye to Miss Rebecca, and Miss Sethu left to have her baby. Miss Coni, and Miss Karlize took over the grade R class. They are both familiar faces, so it was a happy transition. The term is nearing its end, and before we know it we will be celebrating our Christmas concert and prizegiving!!!

Thank you to this amazing team of educators for their care, love and endless patience in helping our little ones grow.



IN A NUTSHELL



Amber Fox (Grade 3) successfully led the Foundation Phase with Shelbi Puttergill (Grade 1), Abi Hattingh (Grade 2) and two fantastic volunteers, Chelsea and Lauren.

Our librarian, Granny Lynn, very kindly organised the library books and read to the children regularly. Mama Rosie supported our learners with additional Math and English lessons. We also thank Mrs Visser for her Afrikaans lessons.



The extra mural program included outings to the Walmer Library and Homeleigh Farm. The learners were also treated with a fun puppet show hosted by PuppetWorld.

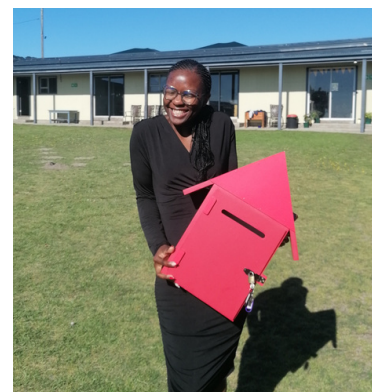
The Grade 3's still enjoy weekly Nalibali classes and were able to be part of the NMMU Family Maths program for another year.

The Intermediate Phase was lead by Mishale Futcher (Grade 7) and her team, Claire Cawood (Grade 4), Miss Didi (Grade 6) and Falynd Bentley (Grade 5).

Miss Didi completes her studies this year, all while being the Grade 6 class teacher and teaching isiXhosa to all the grades. Anique assisted us with English remedial classes.

We welcomed Miss M (now Mrs Bentley!) to the team as she fearlessly lead the Grade 5's. A big congratulations to her.

We thank Mrs Emslie for heading up our sport programme this year and look forward to another year with her on the team. Miss Aps, our lovely social worker, guides us through the year with her class check-in's, and one-on-one sessions. Our incredible bus driver, Thandikhaya for the 1200 punctual, patient and safe trips this year. Miss Asive for being on the bus with our learners and Nathi for her help in keeping our school tidy and clean. Thank you all!



We've been busy!

Phendulani Quiz

A group of Grade 6 and 7 learners were invited to compete in another Phendulani Quiz against a few other schools. Heatherbank did so well and placed second. We are so very proud and can't wait to compete again next year.



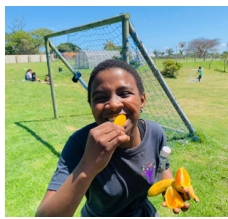
Voting Day

For Freedom Day, the Grade 6 learners hosted our own voting day. They made ballot cards, set up the voting stations, had learners register and vote, and finally they counted the votes. On this day remember those who fearlessly fought for democracy in our country.



VC Sport Day

Our learners from Grade 4 to Grade 7 spent a warm October day with the amazing IIE's Varsity College 3rd year Sport Management students and Varsity College Cares. Thank you for spoiling our learners with a fun, interactive day, and a delicious lunch of fruit, salad rolls and water.



SANCOB

We enjoyed an educational morning at SANCOB, learning about ocean conservation, animal rehabilitation and what we can do to make a difference, to help save our planet.



The HB bus

Our bus gets the protection it deserves with our new shaded port. It also received a re-brand that we get to show off with every trip.

The Garden

Our first tunnel went up this year and the learners couldn't wait to start planting their veggies. We have been able to harvest beetroot, carrots and other veggies for learners to take home to their families.



Reflection

2023 saw us step fully into being a proud trauma-informed school.

Learners are encouraged to keep working towards their personal goals through self-reflection. They are guided by their teachers as they move through our restorative justice system.

Reflection sessions are done after school on Fridays and the garden is utilised to teach learners how to work together and strengthen our family bond.



The Heatherbank Herald

Compiled by the Grade 6 English class



ATHLETICS DAY

On the 20th of September 2023, Heatherbank kids were at the Oval with the teachers. It was the sports day. The Heatherbank School was running against a school called Capstone. The children were so kind to each other. It was fun. The children even said, "We ran long distances and our throats got dry because of running too much." Some children came first in their age group. 18 of the children got the maximum points to win the overall games. It was such a fun day!
Written By Lebese



On the 20th of September 2023 the Heatherbank School decided to go and run against the Capstone school. The event was held at the Westbourne Oval in Central.

On the way to the Oval, there was a lot of singing on the Heatherbank School bus. As the learners entered the stadium, they were cheering for their school. Our excitement could not be held in!

The Heatherbank School excelled in every race. Our Heatherbank family cheered loudly for every racer! We were treated to a hotdog, packet of chips and a cooldrink.

We thank our teachers for a fun day!

Written By Uminathi

SPOTLIGHT ON: SPORT

Mrs Emslie has been the sport coach for a few years and we are so thankful that she enjoys coaching us. All the Heatherbank children say, "Mrs Emslie is the best coach!" and they love hanging out with her. Basketball has been real fun with our new hoops! Everyone's favourite is definitely a good game of rounders on the field.



What am I?

You go at red, but stop at green. What am I?

Answer: A watermelon. You eat the red part, and you stop eating at the green part.



OUR TOP TEN SOCCER PLAYERS OF 2023

1. Simele (13 years Gr 7)
2. Mufaro (13 years Gr 7)
3. Junior (13 years Gr 6)
4. Munyaradzi (13 years Gr 6)
5. Akhanya (13 years Gr 5)
6. Brandon (10 years Gr 4)
7. Wayne (9 years Gr 3)
8. Iviwe (8 years Gr 2)
9. Luvuziwe (8 years Gr 1)
10. Luvuyile (8 years Gr 1)

ANIMAL WELFARE

OUTING

The Grade 6's had an amazing school outing to the Animal Welfare. We got to learn how to take care of animals, like puppies, dogs, donkeys, horses, kittens, cats and chickens.

We got to experience that animals are just like humans. They have feelings and emotions, and they also need a caring, loving home. At the Animal Welfare, they taught us some things that could help if we have a pet at home .
 (1) Your dog needs water. (2) Food- your dog gets hungry just like you so, it needs food. (3) Baths - to keep fleas away.
 (4) Shelter. (5) You need to take your dog for vaccinations. (6) Give your pet toys to play with and spend time with it every day.

We learnt that pets won't love you if you force them. If you want them to love you,- be kind , patient and show care. They will just come and start loving you.

Written By Michealla



Take a break



S	C	H	O	O	L	B
B	T	E	A	C	H	A
E	G	P	E	N	E	G
L	L	L	A	C	R	B
L	A	E	O	I	L	O
P	P	T	O	B	T	O
E	N	B	P	H	E	K

- PENCIL
- BELL
- TEACHER
- GLOBE
- BOOK
- SCHOOLBAG
- LAPTOP
- PEN

AROUND THE SCHOOL



Our learners are feeling much safer with the installation of security cameras in all our classrooms.

We have also added new bells and upgraded our intercom system so that the whole school is connected.

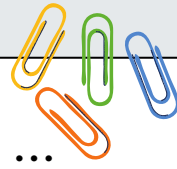
Excitement brewed as we moved our fence line to include our sport fields and court. The senior learners are now able to enjoy these areas during their breaks.

ABLUTION BLOCK

Our beautiful Foundation Phase bathrooms were renovated! This project was completed recently while we were on holiday and we couldn't wait to see the new "face-lift". All thanks to our amazing sponsors.

Written By Michealla





Market Day

The Grade 7's spent many weeks planning for their market day. They sold cooked food and sweet treats. They hosted a fun soccer match and there were a few games which everyone could enjoy. This fundraiser is set aside every year to help the seniors save for their camp. Other fundraising efforts include our annual raffle sheet with great prizes.



We enjoyed an informative demo and chat from PrimaVet, where we learnt more about rabies and caring for animals.



in closing ...

Exams are almost upon us, quickly followed by our annual prize-giving and Christmas party. What a year it's been!

We are so proud of our incredible team, who have each played their part in the lives of these young people. They have equipped them academically and socially to succeed in the next step of their journey. We wish them well, and will watch them with interest.

2024 is around the corner, and we have some exciting projects in mind. Our Foundation Phase playground needs a revamp while we are also hoping to add an irrigation system to our vegetable tunnel. We plan to build a new Grade R classroom on our site and renovate our wendy house into another teaching venue. We will also continue to invest in our science lab, art room and music department.



To the many people who have supported us through this year, we are truly thankful. To donors, sponsors, volunteers, helpers, friends and family. Thank you for the part you played in making this all possible. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year. Best wishes for 2024!