



2024 NEWSLETTER



As we reach the end of another remarkable school year, we're excited to share the highlights and achievements that have defined our journey together in this edition of our end-of-year newsletter. It's been a year filled with growth, learning, and countless memorable moments that showcase the incredible spirit of our school community.

From academic accomplishments to fun-filled events, each experience has contributed to our collective success. We reflect not only our achievements but also the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm that everyone has brought to our school environment.



A NOTE FROM PRE PRIMARY

Heatherbank Pre-primary continues to blossom and grow with beautiful children and teachers who are passionate about their work. Our team is made up of Miss Clara and Miss Siphokazi in Grade 00, Miss Kelly and Miss Tami in Grade 0 and in Grade R, and preparing the children for Grade 1, are Miss Karli and Miss Connie.



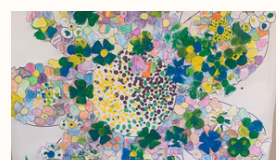
Term 1 is always an exciting start to the year as we welcome new children to the school and see how the returning kiddies have grown and above all the excitement on their faces as they start a new grade. We welcomed two Belgium students, Merle and Mo. They very quickly found their way into the hearts of the children as well as the teachers. It was a sad goodbye in April but we had all made two very special friends. Of course, the highlight was our outing to the beach. This year we went to Pollock Beach where the children showed their fearless spirits and endless energy: swimming and jumping in and out the waves and building sandcastles on the beach. It's always an exhausted but happy crowd that make their way back to school on the bus ready for lunch and a well-deserved rest! The end of term saw a visit from Harvest School Grade 2 children and teachers. All the children made a beautiful basket of Easter eggs before being treated to an Easter egg hunt!

Term 2 was the start of our swimming lessons for Grade 0 and Grade R children. These are held at the Bay Eagle Aquatics Swim Centre where the coaches and staff bless our children with their patience and teaching skills.

In term 3 our swimming lessons continued and by the end we saw some Grade R's confidently swimming on their own in the water! There were new additions to our playground: swings, slides, jungle gym, rope bridge and so much more. Thank you to our donors and Uncle Tony for blessing us out our socks! Our playground is a child's paradise!

Term 4 started off on a busy note with our sports day at the oval. Thank you to Mpho, one of our fathers, and his team for keeping our children busy, happy and entertained for the morning. Then it was off to Homeleigh Farm, another highlight in our busy calendar! This time the Grade 00's joined the Grade 0's and R's. It's a truly special day with tractor rides, feeding and learning all about the farm animals and a hotdog and apples to end off our day! We enjoyed celebrating Christmas with another generous donation from Uncle Jumbo's : a Christmas party for all the Preschool children with a show, gift and supper.

We wish Ms. Kelly all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for the love and dedication she brought to our school community. We welcome Miss Robyn to our team as our new Grade 0 teacher for 2025.





PRIMARY SCHOOL RECAP

This year has been particularly vibrant as we welcomed new teachers. A warm welcome goes out to Miss Baker in Grade 2 and Miss Hague in the Intermediate Phase; both have already made a positive impact on our students and staff.

Our students enjoyed enriching experiences, including our famous farm walks. In the classroom, everyone has worked diligently, showcasing their efforts and determination.



We also celebrate some wonderful milestones in our school family. Congratulations to Mrs. Puttergill on the joyous arrival of her daughter! We extend our gratitude to Miss V for stepping in and teaching our Grade 1 students during this time.

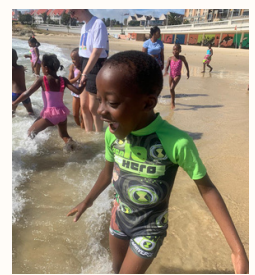
Looking ahead, we are excited for Mrs. Cawood as she anticipates the arrival of her daughter soon. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Moss, who will join us while Mrs. Cawood is on leave. We celebrate the personal happiness of our staff with heartfelt congratulations to Miss Hague on her engagement.

Miss Fox lead the Foundation Phase with Miss Baker and Mrs Puttergill. 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. The Foundation Phase enjoyed visiting the library this year and a trip to the beach. *other outings. The Grade 3's thank Ms Lesley for the fun Masikulisani - Nalibali prize-giving, celebrating another year of reading stories from the program. We also welcome Miss Lauren to the Foundation Phase for 2025.

The Intermediate Phase was lead by Mishale Futchter (Grade 7) and her team, Claire Cawood (Grade 4), Miss Didi (Grade 6), Miss Hague (Grade 4-7) and Falyn Bentley (Grade 5). Our learners had a fun year visiting the VW museum, going on the Logos Hope, competing in a local coding competition, and participating in the Phendulani Quiz.

We thank Mrs Emslie for heading up our sport programme, Miss Aps, our lovely social worker, guiding us through the year with her class check-in's, and one-on-one sessions. Our incredible bus driver, Thandikhaya, Vuyo for driving the bus for 3 months, 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!

It has truly been a year filled with hard work, joy, and shared experiences. We look forward to a busy 2025.



The Garden

Our tunnel has been a great source of fresh air and a space for outdoor learning and connecting. We have been able to harvest beetroot, carrots and other veggies for learners to enjoy.



CONNECT

AT HEATHERBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Connect at Heatherbank Primary School is a program that focuses on different aspects of connection including faith, community, self-reflection, parent engagement, and team support. The aim is to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all members of the school community.

- Christ Connect is centered on teaching life-building values through daily worship time and weekly devotional and prayer sessions.
- Community Connect supports communities through volunteering and collections.
- Check in Connect encourages self-reflection and accountability, utilizing principles such as safety, trustworthiness, empowerment, and educator support.
- Parent Connect aims to strengthen connections with parents through regular communication and mentoring sessions.
- Team Connect ensures team cohesion through weekly meetings and team-building sessions.



Community Connect is a dedicated group of seven learners, from grades 6 and 7, committed to serving others and making a positive impact. This year, we had the opportunity to engage in several meaningful activities. We volunteered at Quest's athletics day, supporting participants and fostering a spirit of teamwork and encouragement, while also manning the water station. Additionally, we visited a frail care center, where we spent time with residents, bringing joy and companionship to their day. We also hosted end-of-term events, bringing together our peers for fun and connection.

Each experience enriched our understanding and strengthened our resolve to continue serving those around us.

Grade 7 Camp



The Grade 7 learners were excited as they settled into their camp, ready for 2 days of adventure and camaraderie. Laughter echoed through the trees as they participated in team-building games, and challenged themselves with obstacle courses. The delicious meals cooked brought everyone together, creating lasting memories. Each moment spent exploring nature or engaging in activities deepened their sense of teamwork and made the camp an unforgettable experience for all.



Christmas Concert and Prize-giving

The prize-giving ceremony was a wonderful celebration of achievement and hard work, where we honored the remarkable accomplishments of our learners. It was inspiring to see so many learners recognized for their dedication, perseverance, and excellence in various fields. Congratulations to all the award recipients; your efforts truly deserve this recognition!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the teachers, parents, and community members who have supported these young minds throughout their journey, guiding them to reach their full potential. Together, we are shaping a brighter future.



Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was an absolute blast! We indulged in delicious boerie rolls and sweet cupcakes while enjoying refreshing snowcones that added a festive touch. To top it all off, Father Christmas made a special appearance, delighting everyone with gifts that brought smiles all around. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the foam slippery slide, which had both kids and adults giggling with joy as they raced down. It was a perfect blend of fun, food, and holiday cheer!



Staff camp

The staff eagerly packed their bags and set off for a weekend camping trip. With every shared meal and team-building activity, they created memories that would last a lifetime. As they returned home, everyone felt refreshed and invigorated, bonded by the shared experience of nature and friendship.



The Heatherbank Herald

Compiled by Grade 6 learners

Bookworms of Heatherbank

Six of our Grade 7 learners took part in the 2024 Phendulani Reading Quiz. This year's competition was hosted by Grey Junior. The contestants had lots of fun. Minentle had the following to say, "It was hard as we had to read 10-12 books in a short amount of time." Inathi also said, "The other schools did show good sportsmanship". Michaela commented that she would like to enter again next year, even though she will be in high school. Heatherbank won second place in the Phendulani Quiz and received amazing gifts. They also walked away with an invitation to tour the Izuzu factory. The Heatherbank Family was so proud of them and how well they represented the school and we are excited to enter our 2025 Grade 7 learners for the next competition.

By: Enzo, Ayanda and Bradley



Going one, going twice, SOLD!

Every year the Grade 7 class sets up a Market day as part of their big EMS project. They sell all kinds of goodies. The profit made from their sales, goes towards their camp. Most of the food items, sold very quickly but they were able to keep business open by hosting a soccer match. The Grade 6's took notes and are excited to plan their first market day in 2025. Watch this space!

By: Enzo, Ayanda and Bradley, Terrence and Ayanda

From bus driver to big celebrity



We all know our school bus driver as Bhuti. He makes sure we arrive at school on time and gets us home every day. At night, he works hard on his music career. Our local community knows him as JOLIZA. He performs Bhaca Soul-style music. Joliza made it all the way to the top 3 of SABC 1's UShuniWomhlaba. We all watched every week and made sure to vote for him. We were so anxious while waiting for the final announcement of the winner. Everyone jumped with joy as Joliza was announced as the winner!



His wife, Asive, had the following to say, "It was unbelievable and believable at the same time, knowing that he won, even though I did not get to spend much time with him. I was so happy, I could jump over the moon."

Lulotho, his daughter, said, "I want to take after my daddy and become a musician and write my own music. I hope my dad (my rolemodel) could teach me to be like him."

Nathi, Joliza's sister, commented, "I am so happy my brother won. If our mother was with us, I know she would be jumping with joy."

We are all so proud of Bhuti and can't wait to see what he creates in the future.

By: Kunge, Carol and Matthew

Fast and Furious

Every year, we all look forward to our annual Athletics day. After the initial postponement, due to bad weather, we were eager to get the races started. We were very happy to have Capstone School join us again this year.

Ellen spoiled us with thoughtful snacks, as we enjoyed the morning. We started the day with some singing, and then the races kicked off.

White house won the spirit cup and Miss Aps, the White house teacher, expressed that she was excited because they had put in a lot of effort and really enjoyed themselves.

The Blue house walked away with the winning cup, scoring the most points from the races. Snono, one of the Blue house runners, said the following, "I felt amazing and it was fun. I noticed that everyone else also had fun. We worked together and it was all worth it, to receive the running award."

We are grateful to Mrs Emslie and Miss Lauren for planning such a fun day for us.

By: Liyanda, Matthew and Anita





AROUND THE SCHOOL

Intermediate Phase bathrooms

The newly painted bathrooms in the Intermediate Phase are a vibrant and refreshing upgrade that truly uplift the entire space. The bright colors and clean finish create a welcoming environment for both students and staff. A heartfelt thank you goes out to The Bridge Greenacres for their unwavering dedication and support throughout this project. Their commitment to enhancing our facilities has made a significant difference, and we are grateful for their partnership in creating a more pleasant and inspiring setting for our learners.



Salt and Light Room 2025

The new bridging class aims to provide a supportive environment for students as they transition to higher academic challenges. This class not only focuses on enhancing academic skills through tailored lessons and collaborative projects but also emphasizes emotional well-being by fostering a sense of community and belonging among students. With the addition of Miss Taylor to the team, students will benefit from her unique approach to learning and mentorship. Overall, this class is designed to empower students both academically and emotionally, ensuring they are well-equipped for future success.



The playground

Sasko Sam made a wonderful visit to our learners, bringing excitement and joy as they donated a brand-new jungle gym for the playground. The addition of this vibrant play structure will surely enhance the outdoor experience for the younger children, providing them with endless opportunities for fun and imaginative play.

We also took the time to resurface the basketball court for our senior learners, making it a safe and inviting space for them to practice and enjoy their games. We're all looking forward to the first game on the newly renovated court, where the energy and enthusiasm are sure to be electric!



The 2025 build

As we look forward to the start of 2025, we are excited about the prospect of building a dedicated staff room, which will provide a comfortable space for our team to collaborate and recharge. This initiative will complement Miss Didi's new Language Centre, enhancing our educational offerings and fostering a supportive environment for both staff and students.

Additionally, we are eager to initiate the construction of our new preschool facility on the primary school grounds, allowing us to have all our programs in one location and promoting a sense of community among our educators, parents, and young learners.

Together, these developments will create a vibrant atmosphere as we embark on this new chapter.



in closing ...

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.



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 2025!