THE HERSCHELIAN
2025 | EMBRACE

BE BOLD
PASSION
PURPOSE

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HERSCHEL GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL
14 Kenmar Crescent, Claremont, Cape Town, 7708
Email: prepinfo@herschel.org.za
Tel: 021 670 7500

HERSCHEL GIRLS SENIOR SCHOOL
21 Herschel Road, Claremont, Cape Town, 7708
Email: info@herschel.org.za
Tel: 021 670 7500

www.herschel.org.za

ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN
René THE Grey
René Blaauw
renethegrey

EDITOR SENIOR SCHOOL:
Cindy Guercio

EDITOR PREP SCHOOL:
Alix Dawson-O'Connor

PHOTOGRAPHY PREP SCHOOL:
Linda Cowie

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Chairperson's Address

By Mrs Tumelo Baloyi

Good morning to all students, parents, Council members, staff, guests, and a special shout out to the Matric Class of 2025.

Approximately twelve to fifteen years ago – between 2010 and 2013 you embarked on your journey. At that time, being in a Matric class was obviously not on your mind, you were terrified to leave home or happy to go play at school. Today, we are here, honoured to celebrate this significant milestone with you, marking your growth and development over the years. We are proud of you for making it so far.

As Chairperson of the Herschel Council, I am here representing a team of highly skilled and committed Council members who support the school's strategic direction, ensuring compliance and upholding strong governance. Above all, we support the school Heads, management committee, and staff in executing their operational agenda. I would like to express my gratitude to all members, both present and absent, for their unwavering dedication to our students and to the success of the school.

Thank you to the Council members whose term ended in early 2025: Dr Neville Wellington, Bishop Joshua Louw of Table Bay, and Mr Gareth Hardes-Williams. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs Khanya Mncwabe, Chair of the Transformation, Equity and Belonging Committee, and Mr Rowan Gordon, Chair of the Finance Committee, whose terms conclude in December 2025. Their dedicated service on Council is highly valued.

We warmly welcome a new member who joined Council recently, Prep School Parents Association representative Ms Danica Slatter, The Archbishop Thabo Makgoba representative, Rev Chesnay Frantz and Planning Committee Chair, Ms Kate Mundy.

Many parents participate in various aspects of school life, such as serving on Council subcommittees, acting as Class Representatives, assisting with fundraising activities, the Matric Dance Ball, stage plays, music events, sports events, and other areas. Their involvement reflects their commitment to supporting the school community.

As I continue extending my gratitude and appreciation to various individuals, I am reminded of a comment from one of the Herschel alumna at this year's Founders' Day lunch. She shared how she once explained to her young daughter the role of the Head Girl, describing her as "the Thank You girl." In that spirit, every speaker on stage today is, in essence, a thank you girl. I trust that everyone feels valued, especially our dedicated staff, teachers, parents, and family members who have supported our matriculants throughout their journey. Thank you all. While I am not Oprah, if I were, I would express my appreciation to everyone and invite you to check under your seats for a gift.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we've made and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Herschel is still fully committed to providing every student with a holistic education and essential resources.

- Transitioning to IEB – The Matric Class of 2024 achieved outstanding results. Although the IEB does not rank school performances and only ranks individual students within each subject (top 1%), independent sources such as BusinessTech do provide school rankings. According to BusinessTech, Herschel was ranked third among all girls' schools nationally and second in the Western Cape – demonstrating continued excellence and strong performance. Herschel ate that up ..... this is translated as crushing it, I mean like standing ovations vibes.

- The Herschel Vision 2040 project seeks to develop Herschel into an environment that equips students for future challenges by incorporating STEM subjects, promoting social justice, facilitating digital transformation, supporting holistic health, and other focus areas. Students expected to matriculate in 2040 are currently in Pre-N in the Pre-Prep. This is the legacy we will all in this room leave for them.

- Our additional key priority is to continue to foster a supportive environment for all students and staff from all backgrounds, ensuring that everyone feels valued and respected and never thinks this school is for others and not them.

- The Advancement Committee is currently finalising plans to strengthen Herschel's partnerships with the Herschel Alumnae Union (HAU) beyond existing engagements, and we anticipate tangible outcomes that will positively impact the school community. Today, we formally entrust the class of 2025 to the capable stewardship of the HAU and encourage all members to extend them a warm welcome. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to alumnae who regularly return to Herschel to engage with staff and students. I urge the Class of 2025 to continue this tradition and remain actively connected to our community.

- Fundraising events serve as a prominent means for fostering generosity. The Anglican Church regards generosity as a transformative influence, impacting not only the church itself but also society at large. Our STEM building is designed to benefit Herschel students and will contribute positively to communities throughout Cape Town and beyond. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to our bursary and scholarship sponsors, including Brendalyn Stempel, Students for a Better Future, and our other valued partners.

As we move forward, let's continue to work collaboratively. Together, we can build a brighter future for our students and our community.

To all Herschel students, you are the heart of our community, and your achievements continue to make us proud. Be proud of yourself, never compare yourself with anyone because there can only be one of you.

As Lady Gaga says in her song, **Born This Way**...

"I'm beautiful in my way
'Cause God makes no mistakes
I'm on the right track, baby
I was born this way
Don't hide yourself in regret
Just love yourself and you're set
I'm on the right track, baby
I was born this way"

In conclusion, Matrics of 2025, this occasion serves not only to honour your academic accomplishments, but also to acknowledge the unique journey each of you has undertaken in reaching this significant milestone. The courage you have displayed in overcoming challenges, along with the resilience demonstrated throughout your school years, is truly commendable. We are all extremely proud of your achievements. All the best with your exams and your future plans and continue to give 'Main Character Energy' in all you do. Strive not only for personal achievement, but for uplifting others and contributing to a better world.

Educators and staff, you're the Wi-Fi to our knowledge – without you, we'd all be buffering. Your dedication and mentorship inspire us all.

Alumnae and the broader community, your continued engagement and generosity light the path for future learners. Together, our shared legacy is one of excellence, kindness, and hope – one that will shape not just the next class, but every generation to come.

Thank you all, and to God be the Glory.

Adieus

FAREWELL TO COLIN JACOBS

By Mr Andrew Scott

Colin started at Herschel back in 2008 as a Maintenance worker in a department comprising five members under the leadership of Mr Frank Majola.

Colin proved himself as a most capable handyman and in 2015 he took over the reins. He is a very competent carpenter and woodwork specialist whilst also being a generalist. Colin's work ethic and willingness to save the school money always meant that he would try and fix any and all problems inhouse if possible. And even today you will find Colin on the highest roof with a blow torch repairing roofs or repairing ceilings way above the floor on carefully constructed scaffoldings. No job is too big for Colin and therefore for his team. He has led by example with the objective that if I can do it, then so can you!

To continue reading, scan the QR code below.

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FAREWELL TO OUR FABULOUS CORINNE LEVITT

By Mrs Carern Kieffer-Walker

The Heart, Humour, and Haute Couture of Our Pre-Prep

There are people who come into a workplace, do their job, and quietly move on. And then there are those rare gems who transform a workplace into something much more – a community, a family, a place filled with laughter, creativity, and care.

Corinne is one of those people.

From the moment she joined us, Corinne brought with her an energy that was impossible to ignore. Efficient, organised, and always two steps ahead, she made sure that everything behind the scenes ran seamlessly – often with a smile, a quick joke, and a perfectly coordinated outfit.

To continue reading, scan the QR code below.

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FAREWELL TO HANNAH MOXHAM

By Miss Malindri Eastes

Hannah Moxham quickly became an integral part of our department, slotting in seamlessly and making an immediate impact. An excellent Mathematics teacher, she brought clarity, enthusiasm, and genuine care into her classroom, and it was no surprise that the girls responded so positively to her teaching. She built strong relationships with her classes and was deeply respected for both her knowledge and her approachability.

Beyond the classroom, Hannah was highly involved in our hockey programme, where her commitment, energy, and encouragement were equally evident. She gave generously of her time and played an important role in fostering both skill development and team spirit.

Hannah's contribution to the department and to the broader life of the school was significant, and she will be remembered with great fondness. We wish her every success and happiness in the next chapter of her journey.

FAREWELL TO MISS ITUMELENG LEHOMO

By Miss Liane Karsten

Miss Lehomo was part of the Prep Sport Department for two years, and although her time at Herschel was short, she made an impact on both students and staff.

Her teaching focus was in the Foundation Phase, where she worked closely with our youngest girls. From Grade R to Grade 3, she brought a wonderful blend of care, structure, and confidence to every Physical Education lesson.

Her passion for netball was always evident, and she approached her coaching with professionalism and consistency. She also assisted with swimming and water polo, always willing to support the department wherever she was needed.

We wish Miss Lehomo all the very best as she moves on to her next chapter.

Adieus

FAREWELL TO MRS LYNNE GIBB

By Miss Linda Cowie

"Mrs Gibb, can I phone my mom?
I left my lunchbox at home."

"Mrs Gibb, can you please call my mom?
I'm not feeling well."

"Do you know if my printing is back?" asks a staff member.

"We've run out of milk, Lynne –
can you phone the kitchen?" calls Gracie.

"Please could you print 15 copies for me?"
says another colleague.

And so begins a typical day in the life of our kind and generous Mrs Lynne Gibb, receptionist extraordinaire.

Lynne joined the Herschel staff on 1 May 2014, stepping into a role that few would take on with such grace and calm. From phone calls to post-its, from sick children to security checks, from bells and fire sirens to the ever-busy intercom – Lynne has always had her finger firmly on the pulse of the school. Her familiar voice over the intercom has become part of our daily rhythm, and it will be dearly missed.

Lynne's deep love for the Lord shines through in the gentle, compassionate way she handles every situation. She listens patiently, offers wise words, and always makes time for both staff and girls who come her way in need of help, comfort, or a listening ear.

We will miss her smiling face in the front office, her calm presence amidst the bustle, and her cheerful voice that has so often anchored our days. As Lynne begins this new chapter of well-deserved rest and joy, we wish her every blessing for a happy, fulfilling retirement.

FAREWELL MRS MARY MARTIN, TEACHER OF THE BUSY BEES

By Mrs Carern Kieffer-Walker

After 26 wonderful years at Herschel, Mrs Martin retires, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, courage, and joy. Since joining the Pre-Prep in 1999 and beginning as an assistant teacher in 2001, she has invested wholeheartedly in her colleagues, her friendships, and, most importantly, her girls.

A lifelong learner, Mrs Martin embraced every new idea with quiet bravery, always eager to grow and to inspire. Her passion, from creative classroom innovations to her enthusiastic "eco-warrior" pursuits, brought energy and purpose to all she did. She believed deeply that learning should be joyful, playful, and meaningful.

Whether dressing up with spirit, collaborating with her team, or ensuring her "hive" flourished, Mrs Martin always showed up with heart and dedication.

We thank her for the life lessons she modelled so beautifully: treasure your friendships, keep learning, show up wholeheartedly, and never forget to have fun along the way.

Mrs Martin, you will always be part of the Herschel hive. We carry you in our hearts and wish you every happiness in this new season with your family.

FAREWELL TO NICOLE MANGONDO

By Miss Maryke Eloff

Saying goodbye to Nicole is never easy. She has been more than a colleague – she's a true friend and an integral part of our Sports Department family.

Nicole joined Herschel in 2023, and from day one, it was clear she was someone special. Always 100% herself – strong, confident, calm, and adored by the pupils. She brings energy and joy to every PE lesson and coaching session. If there's fun to be had, she's right there, running circles around the girls like she's still in high school!

She is one of the most passionate coaches I've ever met, constantly finding ways to make her sessions exciting. While the rest of us enjoy lunch breaks, Nicole is on the court coaching, training, or flying off to represent her basketball club. On top of that, she's a devoted mom and partner – managing it all with grace and without complaint.

The pupils absolutely adore her. At the end of the year, Nicole's table is piled high with gifts, while the rest of us might have one card... maybe. In the Sports Office, she's the balance and voice of reason, reminding us to think differently and keeping us grounded.

When Nicole told me she was moving to China, I went through all five stages of grief at once: shock, anger, tears... and a lot of disbelief. But we are thrilled for her – this is an incredible opportunity for growth, for her and her family, and she absolutely deserves it.

Nicole, we wish you every success on this exciting journey. Please don't forget us when you become the famous head coach of a professional basketball team and remember, you always have a home at Herschel.

FAREWELL TO WENDY PATERSON

By Mrs Naseema Parker

It is with both gratitude and a sense of loss that we bid farewell to Wendy Paterson, a much-loved member of our Senior School community. As a Geography teacher, Wendy brought her subject to life with energy, purpose, and deep conviction. Her passion for sustainability was not simply taught, but lived – inspiring in our girls a genuine respect for the environment and a belief that they can make a difference.

Wendy was our true "eco warrior", championing initiatives that encouraged more conscious, responsible living within our school. Whether in the classroom or beyond it, she consistently wove themes of care, stewardship, and global awareness into all that she did.

Her impact extended well beyond academics. As the leader of the Hiking Club, Wendy created space for adventure, connection, and reflection in nature – experiences that many girls will carry with them for years to come. She has a remarkable ability to build relationships, and her care for the girls was always evident in the time, attention, and encouragement she so generously gave.

Wendy leaves behind a meaningful legacy – one rooted in compassion, purpose, and a deep love for both people and the planet. She will be greatly missed by colleagues and pupils alike.

We thank her for all that she has given to Herschel and wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her journey.

Administrative and Support Staff

Cindy Guercio

Faizel Pregnolato

Hillary Morusi

Lydia Titus

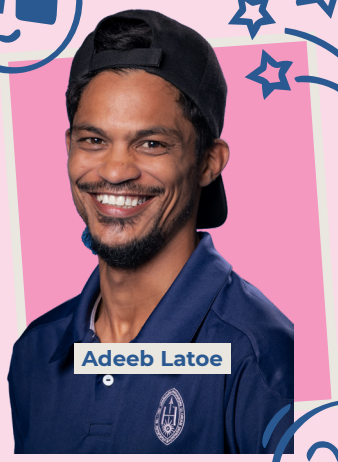
Bevan Odendaal

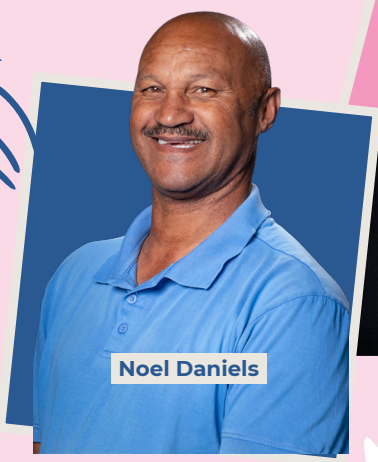
Zakeeyah Limbada

Graham Jones

Stuart Levey

Lindsay Petersen


Adeeb Latoe


Noel Daniels

Lyn Lourens

Zwelakhe Mngqelana

Siphamandla Hlongwa

Lorenzo Davids

Paballo Mbedzi

Chanze Jacobs

Luyanda Lukwe

Mzuvumile Phike

Heather Vaughan

Mlandeli Boko

Andrew Bearne

Corinne Levitt

Mtheto Shorti

Simnikiwe Dyanti

Mfezeko Matshona

Natalie Corin

Luyanda Centani

Lynne Gibb

Dean Hoffenberg

Crystal Davids

Luyanda Ntuli

Michelle Seymour

Khayalethu Noqolota

Nkosoxolo Mde

Feroza Cerff

PREPARATORY

Prep School Staff

PRE-PREP

Front row: Katie von Hasseln, Jodi Evans, Veruscha Johannes, Carern Kieffer-Walker, Tessa Brogan, Zanele Mrasi
Back row: Sonja Bräsler, Zayaan Behardien, Sharondine Gobey, Angela Sass, Janine Bearne, Mimi Kebani, Itumeleng Lehomo, Abongile Matiya, Corinne Levitt

OUR HEAD AND DEPUTY HEADS

Carern Kieffer-Walker, Reneè Swartz, Ricky Anderson

HPSU TEAM

Alexis Brown, Terri Aubin, Robyn Stakemire

ADMIN SUPPORT TEAM

Natalie Corin, Corinne Levitt, Lynne Gibb, Luyanda Ntuli

FOUNDATION PHASE

Front row: Nadia Robbertze, Karen Rutgers, Joybell Rasmussen, Zazie Khan, Christine Moritz, Karen Mde, Layken Africa

Back row: Phumla Vundla, Kirsty Meyer, Robyn Stakemire, Beth Gabriel, Nicole Barends

INTERSEN AND SPECIALISTS

Front row: Anne Foale-Price, Amanda Mozley, Amber Scott, Raihaanah Sheik-Mohamed, Alix Dawson-O'Connor
Middle row: Linda Cowie, Shelagh Blake, Anne Lewis, Phumla Vundla, Ayesha Ally, Bernadine Julies, Karen Meyer, Karen Bosch, Terri Aubin
Back row: Ricky Anderson, Liane Karsten, Marise Laubscher, Kate McAlery, Jessica Holtzhausen, Rachelle Pretorius

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Sonja Bräsler, Annamarie van der Vyver, Rachelle Pretorius

Headmistress Report

By Reneè Swartz

As a Prep School, our responsibility extends far beyond preparing girls for the next grade. We are preparing them for the next generation of learning, living and leading. In a world shaped by rapid change, artificial intelligence and constant information, the questions we ask about education matter more than ever.

SO, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL OUR GIRLS WILL NEED FOR THE FUTURE?

More than any single academic or technical skill, I believe it is a well-developed Relational Quotient (RQ) which is defined by the ability to understand oneself and to build strong, healthy relationships with others.

While the future will undoubtedly be driven by technology, it will remain deeply human in the spaces that cannot be automated. Research from the World Economic Forum consistently highlights relational and emotional capabilities as essential skills for 2030 and beyond. For girls between the ages of 3 and 13, these skills must be intentionally nurtured early, as they form the foundation for all learning.

At Herschel Prep, we make this real and visible for our girls. A strong Relational Quotient means learning to understand and regulate emotions, read social cues, collaborate meaningfully, resolve conflict, show empathy without losing one's voice and lead with both confidence and compassion.

Girls who develop these capabilities don't just cope; they thrive. They thrive academically, socially and, ultimately, in the world beyond school. In a future defined by constant change, it is our girls' humanity that will matter most.

SO HOW DOES STEAM HELP DEVELOP THESE RELATIONAL SKILLS?

At Prep School level, we intentionally lean into STEAM, not just STEM. The Arts are not an add-on; they develop the very human skills our girls need to thrive.

STEAM learning is collaborative by nature. Girls design, build and solve problems together, learning to listen, express ideas, negotiate, give feedback and work with people, not just materials.

It also builds resilience. Trial and error are part of the process, teaching girls to manage frustration, adapt their thinking and support one another.

Through design and creativity, girls learn empathy and perspective-taking by asking not only *How does this work?* but *Who is this for?* and *How might it make someone feel?*

STEAM grows confidence, leadership and emotional regulation. It stretches our girls in the best ways, helping them learn how to manage themselves while working with others.

Through STEAM, girls aren't just learning how things work, they're learning how they work, with themselves and with each other.

This is not about producing future engineers at seven. It is about growing confident, curious girls who feel capable across all areas of learning.

When done well, STEAM doesn't take away from anything else. It strengthens learning as a whole and, most importantly, it draws girls in rather than pushing them out.

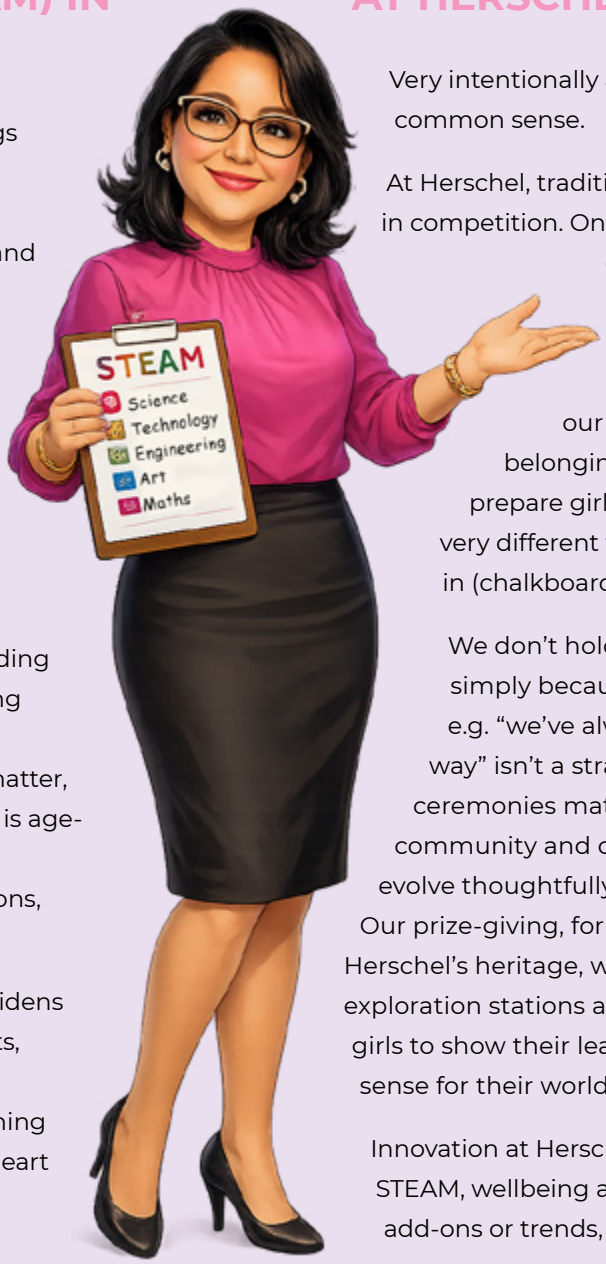
WHAT ARE THE MISCONCEPTIONS AROUND STEM (STEAM) IN PREP SCHOOLS?

One of the biggest misunderstandings about STEAM in Prep Schools is the idea that it means pushing Science, Technology and Maths earlier, faster and harder, often at the expense of play, creativity, reading and emotional growth. There is a fear that young girls are being pressured to perform, specialise too soon, or lose the joy of learning.

That is not what good STEAM looks like at this age.

In a Prep School, STEAM is about building foundations, not rushing ahead. Strong teaching in Science and Maths and thoughtful exposure to technology, matter, but they are woven into learning that is age-appropriate, exploratory and curious. There is room for imagination, questions, connection and wonder.

STEAM does not narrow learning; it widens it. It brings together language, the arts, problem-solving and collaboration. Reading, writing, thinking and imagining are not pushed aside, they sit at the heart of the learning experience.



SO HOW DO WE BALANCE INNOVATION AND TRADITION AT HERSCHEL PREP?

Very intentionally and with a good dose of common sense.

At Herschel, tradition and innovation are not in competition. One gives us our roots; the other gives our girls their wings. We begin with our why. Our traditions anchor us in our values, our story and our sense of belonging. Innovation helps us prepare girls for a world that looks very different from the one we grew up in (chalkboards included).

We don't hold onto traditions simply because they're familiar e.g. "we've always done it this way" isn't a strategy. Our rituals and ceremonies matter because they build community and continuity, but they evolve thoughtfully so they stay meaningful. Our prize-giving, for example, still honours Herschel's heritage, while student-led exploration stations and digital elements allow girls to show their learning in ways that make sense for their world.

Innovation at Herschel is always purposeful. STEAM, wellbeing and future skills are not add-ons or trends, they are woven into how

WHAT GIVES ME HOPE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEXT GENERATION?

Hope is what I live by and what I live for in education today. It isn't abstract or wishful. It is real, visible and present every day.

As the Head of a school of young girls, I see hope in their curiosity, their courage and their belief in what lies ahead. While adults often worry about the future, our girls meet it with questions, creativity and quiet confidence.

Hope lives in our classrooms. It shows up in teachers who innovate with care and purpose, in a culture that honours where we come from while preparing boldly for what's next, and in a community that responds to challenge with resilience and compassion.

What gives me hope, right here and right now, is the living proof before us: that Herschel girls will thrive and that teaching continues to evolve, inspire and matter deeply for the future.

we teach and learn. An inquiry-based approach allows girls to think deeply, ask good questions and connect ideas, while developing the relational skills that matter just as much as content.

We reflect constantly. What's working? What still serves our values? What needs to shift? This daily practice ensures that innovation strengthens who we are, rather than diluting it.

And finally, we lead with culture, not technology. Technology is a tool, not the goal. Used well, it supports creativity, collaboration and critical thinking, all firmly anchored in Herschel's ethos of character, care and significant success.

At Herschel, we choose balance: the courage to evolve, the wisdom to protect what matters, and the confidence to do both at the same time.

VIDEO

Scan to watch video

In 2025, Embrace became more than a theme at Herschel Girls Prep School, it became a way of being. We embraced growth by re-imagining how our girls learn, placing curiosity, inquiry, and relevance at the heart of the classroom. We embraced innovation while remaining grounded in our values, ensuring that tradition strengthened rather than restricted us. We embraced relationships by prioritising wellbeing, empathy and connection for our girls and our staff. And we embraced courage: the courage to try, to adapt, to reflect, to fail forward and for myself in this role: to lead change thoughtfully and intentionally. Through this, Embrace allowed our community not just to keep pace with a changing world, but to thrive within it.

Secretary's Welcome

HAND IN HAND ON THE FRONTLINE

Hand in hand, we journey
along the frontline road

Together we stick side by side

Carrying a full and colourful load

From answering the switchboard,

To making outbound calls

To administer plasters, antiseptic and ice

For many bumps, trips and falls

Phoning moms to come as soon as possible

To fetch their daughters who are sick

We monitor registers, fill in petty cash

And pink slips in a nick

We type letters and send out emails

And learn new systems when required

The change can be daunting

Which at times gets us somewhat wired

We are like the three Musketeers

Ready to save the day

However, when our horses will not round up,

Together, we plan to be okay

There is nothing better than moral support

As we link hands, it is a gift we give each other

We will always greet you with a smile

And nothing is a bother.

With love
Natalie, Lynne and Corinne

Herschel Prep Support Unit

Robyn Stakemire

- Head of Department
- Foundation Phase Learning Support
- Therapy management

HPSU

Terri Aubin

- Intermediate and Senior Phase Learning Support Co-Ordinator
- Study skills sessions
- Gr 4 and 5 small Mathematics classes
- Assessment invigilation and co-ordination

Alexis Brown

- Individual Counselling
- Mediation Sessions
- Workshops
- Hive Committee (Anti -Bullying)

"Everyone's a spark, and in the night, together we make a light, a fire burning bright"

Herschel Prep Support Department: The Sparkle Centre at Herschel is the home of your daughter's academic and emotional well-being. We strive to promote academic confidence through individualised support, to celebrate and embrace neurodiversity and to engage and empower parents as partners.

Our mission is to foster an inclusive, nurturing, and safe community where every girl feels valued, empowered, and inspired to reach her full potential. We are committed to providing enriching opportunities, promoting emotional well-being, and cultivating a supportive environment that encourages growth, resilience, and lifelong success.

We have a team of caring and passionate professionals who work together to support the girls, be it in the Learning Support, Enrichment or Emotional Wellness arena. The Team is run by Robyn Stakemire, Terri Aubin, and Alexis Brown. We are also lucky enough to work with a group of private Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, a Speech and Language Therapist and facilitators on campus.

Founder's Day

Embrace the Love!

Founder's Day this year fell on the Day of Love, Valentine's Day, which was the perfect occasion to launch our 2025 theme: **EMBRACE!**

To introduce and present our theme, the fabulous Melody Skies took to the stage dressed head to toe in pink, a joyful tribute to our amazing school. This year marks 103 years of leaning to make a difference and what a celebration it was!

Ms Skies interviewed members of staff who have worked across different phases of the school, each sharing what they love most about Herschel. The fun continued with a lively game show, where the audience had to guess the teacher from their old school photograph. Laughter filled the hall as some faces were easier to recognise than others!

The Drama Society then treated us to a clever "advert break," launching the emBRACELET, a symbolic reminder of the love we share, our pride in our school and our sense of belonging.

As tradition holds, the celebration concluded with the Prep and Senior Schools linking arms around the fountain, singing our beautiful school song in unison. The day ended with a joyful picnic on the lawns, a perfect close to a day filled with pride, laughter and love.

Embrace the love.
Embrace your true self.
Embrace others.

Pre-Prep Special Days

GRADE R'S ACT OF KINDNESS

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – **Aesop***

Grade R's put kindness into action by making sandwiches for our community. We spoke about how small acts, like making a sandwich, can make a big difference to someone's day. The children loved working together and counting how many sandwiches we made.

These sandwiches will be added to our usual Tuesday contribution to Kewtown, helping to spread care and compassion beyond our classroom.

Thank you to everyone who donated bread, jam, peanut butter, and butter. Your generosity helped teach our girls that kindness grows when we share what we have.

DAD OR SPECIAL PERSON MORNING

In September, our Grade R girls warmly welcomed their dad or special person to a memorable morning at school. The day began with cheerful singing and dancing, filling the classroom with smiles and excitement. Each child then worked together with their special guest to create a colourful and creative poster to represent their family which they proudly paraded around the astro turf outside before the real fun began.

Outside, everyone enjoyed taking part in a range of activities, including Duck Duck Goose, running relays, and other lively races. These games were wonderful opportunities for laughter, teamwork, and bonding. To end off the morning, the girls shared the delicious shortbread they had baked with their guests. It was a truly special occasion, filled with joy, connection, and lasting memories for everyone who took part.

NURSERY – VIP AND ME DAY!

Our Nursery classes buzzed with excitement as we celebrated our much-anticipated VIP and Me Day! It was a special occasion that filled our classrooms with laughter, creativity, and heart-warming moments shared between our little ones and their special guests.

The morning began with our nursery girls singing cheerful songs that set a joyful tone for the day. From there, creativity took centre stage as our young artists and their VIPs painted colourful stones together, each one a beautiful keepsake full of memories and love. Another favourite activity was our bracelet making station. Finally, we ended our celebration with a lovely tea party complete with sweet treats, tasty cakes, and refreshing juices. The garden was filled with happy chatter and the wonderful feeling of togetherness that makes VIP and Me Day so special.

PRE-NURSERY GRANDPARENTS DAY

Our Pre-N children celebrated with their grandparents with laughter, song, and a touch of green. After a charming show, they planted thyme together and shared a delicious picnic, creating memories as warm and special as the hugs they gave.

Mother Goose to the Rescue

The Pre-Prep staged a delightful adaptation of Mother Goose. The Class Teachers set the Grade Rs a challenge to create their very own rhymes!

Of course, for some of our little ones, rhyming is still a brand-new adventure. Fortunately, help arrives in the form of none other than Mother Goose herself. With the support of her friends, she gently guides the girls into the wonderful world of rhythm and rhyme.

Played by the ever-creative Corinne Levitt, our real-life Mother Goose could not have been better cast. Corinne regularly pens poems and stories for our Pre-Prep, always in rhyme, making her the perfect mentor for our budding poets.

Each Grade brought their class name to life on stage with imagination, charm, and plenty of giggles.

The Cuddly Kittens padded in wearing their adorable outfits as they performed The Three Little Kittens and Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat.

The Lambs went searching for their lost sheep, much to the audience's delight.

The Bees buzzed in to ask Mother Goose the very serious question of whether her pom-pom was bigger than theirs.

The Bunnies impressed everyone by reciting a bunny poem in isiXhosa with confidence and flair.

The Ladybirds kept the poor male ladybug on his toes as they brought their storyline to life.

The Butterflies floated gracefully through a dance that celebrated who they are and who they are becoming.

This year's Mother Goose production is sure to stay in the hearts of our Pre-Prep girls for years to come – its songs, rhymes, and memories fluttering alongside them long after the curtain has closed.

Pre-Nursery

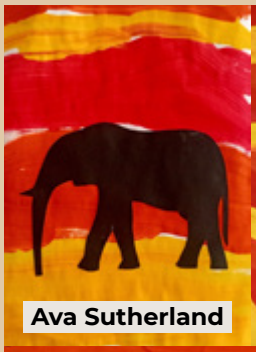
Cuddly Kittens

In the Kalahari

In the Kalahari, in the Kalahari,
what can I see, what can I see,
I can see a giraffe, I can see a giraffe,
staring at me, staring at me.

In the Kalahari, in the Kalahari,
what can I see, what can I see,
I can see an elephant, I can see an elephant,
Trumpeting at me, trumpeting at me.

In the Kalahari, in the Kalahari,
what can I see, what can I see,
I can see a rhino, I can see a rhino,
Charging at me, charging at me.... Aaah!!


Ava Sutherland

Billie Cowling

Blake Wiggill

Elizabeth Stewart

Elliette Riley

Emily de Freitas

Harley Murie

Iman Allie

Isabella Loxton

Lara Daffue

Milani Waters

Joséphine Howard Appel

Juliette van Diggelen

Kimberly Smith

Olivia van der Westhuizen

Rosie Barratt

Scarlett Shonfeld

Sofia Desai

Tamiranashe Rhuhwaya

Turfa Rahman

Zoe Lowe

PRE-PREP

PRE-NURSERY

Pre-Nursery
Little Lambs

All about me

I have a name that's just for me,
I say it loud and happily.
I have two eyes to blink and see,
A nose that sniffs the bakery!
I have a smile that loves to shine,
A voice that's special and all mine.
I dress myself from head to toe
Buttons, zips, and shoes I know!
I paint and stick with colours bright,
Creating art that feels just right.
I like to draw and laugh and play,
And learn new things along the way.

NOA THANE

OLIVIA LOUW

QUINN BARBER

SAFAA JANOODIEN

SALMA ALLIE

SIENNA WHITTAKER

LIYA PARKER

LUCY BARBIERI

MIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

MILA MCCORMICK

NATALIE ERDMANN

BOBBIE PATERSON

EVELYN MINTOOR

HARPER DEWS

JOCELYN PATTISON

LILY SOLOMON

AALIA' ABASS

ADEENAH VAN DER SCHYFF

ALLEGRA KOSER

ANNABEL SOLIK

AVA LEVESQUE

PRE-NURSEY

PRE-PREP

BOUNCING BUNNIES AND BUSY BEES

Learning Together

If you had a magic wand, what would you do?

I would make lots of butter chicken – **Hanaa Abrahams**
I would turn myself into an animal – **Mila Andjelopolj**
I would turn everyone into a frog – **Anna Brasecke**
I would turn the classroom into a castle – **Yara Brown**
I would turn the world into ice cream – **Isla Cumming**
I would make animals talk – **Stella Gluckman**
Make lots of cupcakes – **Poppy Huber**
Put lots of butterflies into the sky – **Simreen Lalloo-Ramjee**
Make lots of ice cream – **Victoria Lory**
Put a 100 rainbows in the sky – **Aiyla Manie**
Make lots of little kittens – **Sienna Martin**
Build a fancy house – **Juliet McGuire**
Plant more trees – **Rachel Mhere**
I would make lots and lots of friends – **Piper Pitman**
Have my own private jet – **Margot Ritchie**
I would turn planet earth into candy – **Blair Ronaasen-Rhoda**
I would turn myself into a teacher – **Sana Shimange**
I would turn the world into a love heart – **Ivy Simpson**
Make lots of flowers – **Gilah Sinclair**
Make lots of candy floss – **Amahle Sisulu**
Turn myself into a dog – **Holly Thirsk**
I would turn myself into a horse rider – **Mila Willmore**

BEE HAPPY

What makes me happy

Playing with Georgia,Ice cream,Snuggles with mum and dad – **Amelia Band**

When my brother cuddles me – **Asma Badroodien**

When my mom and dad give me snuggles – **Eloise Bezuidenhout**

When I snuggle with my blankie and teddy in my bed – **Isla Beukman**

When my mom makes me feel calm and gives me cuddles – **Evan Brewis**

Snuggling with my blankie – **Mackenzie Deetlefs**

When I go to the aquarium with mom, dad and monkey – **Ava Campbell**

Cuddling my mommy – **Elle Lau**

Playing with my sisters – **Kate De Freitas**

I feel happy when I'm playing in the sand on the beach – **Nova Le Clus Theron**

Hugging my unicorn – **Zoe Lingeveld**

When my brother shares with me – **Meera Maistry**

Going to a waterpark – **Gemma Murray**

Spending time with my cat and my dog – **Ivy McArthur**

When mom gives me cuddles at night – **Asma N**

When my mom and dad give me cuddles – **Georgia Nel**

Hugging Mommy – **Charlotte Paizes**

Bird Watching – **Francesca Pohl**

Spending time with my nanny. That makes me calm and happy – **Piper Schoon**

When my mom lets me watch a movie – **Linamandla Mzozoyana**

When my mom cuddles me at bedtime – **Lana'ya Stuurman**

Spending time with my WHOLE family at Christmas time – **Piper Templeton**

PRE-PREP

NURSERY

MACKENZIE DEETLEFS

NOVA LE CLUS-THERON

LINAMANDLA MZOZOYANA

AVA CAMPBELL

GEMMA MURRAY

ISLA BEUKMAN

LANA'YA STUURMAN

EVAN BREWIS

CHARLOTTE PAIZES

PIPER TEMPLETON

GEORGIA NEL

KATE DE FREITAS

AMELIA BAND

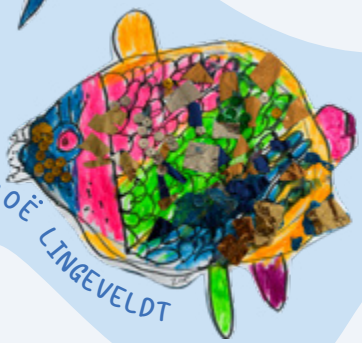
ELLE LAU

ASMA NOORANI

IVY MCARTHUR

ELOISE BEZUIDENHOUT

PIPER SCHOON


ZOË LINGEVELDT

ASMA BADROODIEN

FRANCESCA POHL

MEERA MAISTRY

AIYLA MANIE

AMAHLE SISULU

ANNA BRASECKE

MILA ANDJELOPOLJ

YARA BROWN

ISLA CUMMING

RACHEL MHERE

HOLLY THIRSK

MARGOT RITCHIE

MILA WILLMORE

STELLA GLUCKMAN

HANAA ABRAHAMS

PIPER PITMAN

GILAH SINCLAIR

VICTORIA LORY

SIMREEN LALLOO-RAMJEE

BLAIR RONAASEN-RHODA

POPPY HUBER

SANA SHIMANGE

SIENNA MARTIN

IVY SIMPSON

JULIET MCGUIRE

PRE-PREP

NURSERY

Grade R

Little Wings, Big Dreams

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY OF OUR BUTTERFLY AND LADYBIRD CLASSES

Butterfly Friends

Butterflies flutter in the sky,
Lily, Anna, Jessica, Sophie fly!
Freya, Zaynab, Katy, Clare,
Georgina, Noa, Lea are there!
Emily L, Sizeka, Amayah too,
Nala, Vivien, Taylor say “woo-hoo!”
Gemma, Zara, Maxine, Charlotte bright,
Lacey, Emily W, Inari take flight!
Sophia waves as butterflies play,
Colours and giggles fill our day!

PRE-PREP

GRADE R

In every flutter and dot,
there's a story of discovery,
laughter, and learning.

What are you looking forward to in Grade One?

Working hard, I always try.
– **Lily Alexander**

Having a new teacher, but I love you too, Mrs Bearne.
– **Anna Anderson**

Doing maths work because I am getting good at it.
– **Jessica Böttger**

Homework because I have a new desk.
– **Sophie Cowan**

Having a nice teacher.
– **Freya Duncan**

When your mom drops you at the gate and you get to walk in by yourself.
– **Zaynab Ebrahim**

Having fun.
– **Katy Elliott**

Playing and having fun.
– **Clare Henny**

Arts and craft because I like drawing and making things.
– **Georgina Heyns**

Doing homework. I think I will like it.
– **Noa Joubert**

I want to learn.
– **Lea Lemmer**

Drama and acting, I am good at it.
– **Emily Lowe**

Listening to my teachers.
– **Amayah Madlala**

Sitting at the tables with the shelves underneath and seeing the classroom.
– **Sizeka Mzozoyana**

Having new friends.
– **Nala Ntoi**

Reading books.
– **Vivien Ord**

We get to wear a dress.
– **Taylor Parkhurst**

Meeting my new teachers and new friends from the Ladybird class that join us.
– **Gemma Pearce**

Seeing who my new teacher is.
– **Zara Saloojee**

Having a fun and exciting adventure.
– **Inari Sattar-Mayman**

I look forward to playing with new toys.
– **Maxine Short**

Doing different activities.
– **Charlotte Stewart**

I will write tests and work properly. It will be hard.
– **Lacey Taylor**

Seeing my sister on the playground.
– **Emily Walker**

Meeting the new teachers.
– **Sophia Whale-Terblanche**

I just like doing homework because then I feel like a big girl.
– **Hanaa Ally**

To make new friends.
– **Sofia Andrews**

I am excited to know what class I am in.
– **Olivia Autiere**

To learn something important.
– **Tahseen Banderker**

Meeting new friends.
– **Rosa Barbieri**

Playing with new friends.
– **Amelia Beaumont**

Walking in by myself.
– **Sophia Blandin de Chalain**

Learning how to read.
– **Catherine Caldicott**

New teachers and new friends.
– **Chiedza Chinyamutangira**

I am looking forward to everything.
– **Amelia Daffue**

Doing art.
– **Aiyla D'Assonville**

Seeing everyone at school every single day.
– **Philippa Dowse**

To meet my teachers and to play with my cousin at break time. She will be in Grade 2 and I'll be I Grade 1.
– **Emma Duck**

Saying bye to my mom.
– **Zanele Gqamana**

To seeing the teachers and playing with my friends.
– **Tyla King**

I am looking forward to making new friends, to seeing which teacher I am going to have, what the jungle gym looks like and learning to read.
– **Amelia Louw**

I am excited to see my teachers and to find out how kind they are.
– **Annabella McGregor**

Seeing my classroom and meeting my teachers.
– **Bailey Neill**

My birthday and to go on holiday.
– **Kananelo Ntoi**

Meeting my new teacher.
– **Luna Belle Rampf**

To see if there are new friends.
– **Maria Rossouw-Steyn**

Seeing my friends and seeing what class I am in and who my teacher will be.
– **Abigail Rule**

Maths, reading and art.
– **Saarah Sadien**

To seeing my teacher and my new class.
– **Stella Savage-Rheeder**

Making new friends and playing in the new playground. – **Hannah Van Niekerk**

I am excited to see what we are going to do.
– **Hannah May York**

Art
Butterflies

Amayah Madlala

Anna Anderson

Charlotte Stewart

Clare Henny

Emily Lowe

Emily Walker

Freya Duncan

Gemma Pearce

Georgina Heyns

Inari Sattar-Mayman

Jessica Böttger

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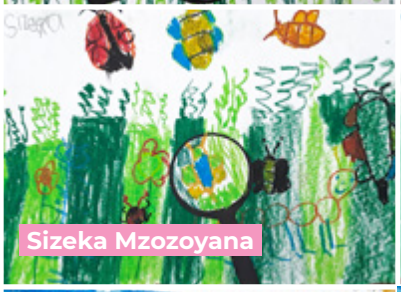
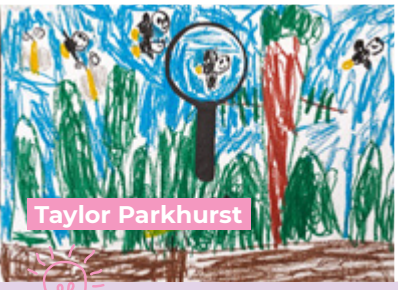

Sizeka Mzozoyana

Sophia Whale-Terblanche

Sophie Cowan


Taylor Parkhurst

Vivien Ord

Zaynab Ebrahim

Zara Saloojee

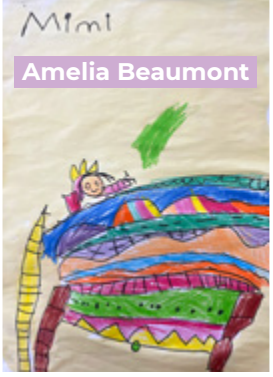
Art

Ladybirds

The Princess and the Pea

Abigail Rule

Aiyla D'Assonville

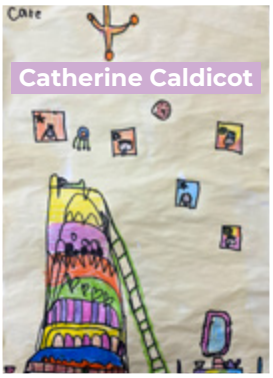

Amelia Beaumont

Amelia Daffue

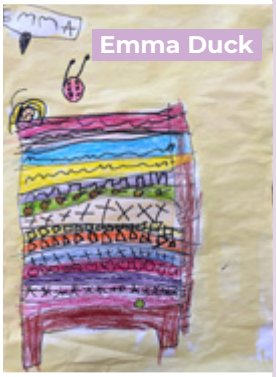
Amelia Louw

Annabella McGregor

Bailey Neill


Catherine Caldicot

Chiedza Chinyamutangira


Emma Duck

Hanaa Ally

Hannah May York

Hannah van Niekerk

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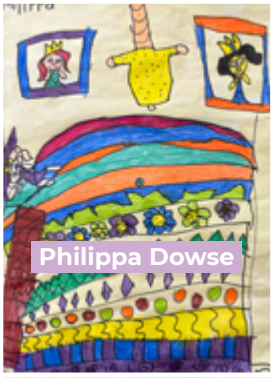
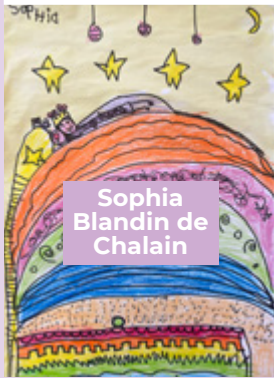

Philippa Dowse

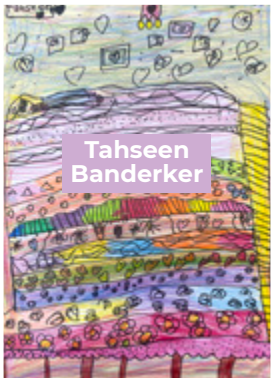
Rosa Barbieri

Saarah Sadien

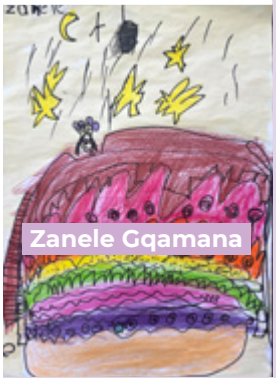
Sofia Andrews


Sophia Blandin de Chalain

Stella Savage-Reeder


Tahseen Banderker

Tyla King


Zanele Gqamana

PREP

Grade 1

Finish the song lyrics

You're in the mood for a dance
and when you get the chance ... (by ABBA)
You dance around at the party
Lianah Adam

Sweet dreams are made of ... (by Eurythmics)
Clouds and flowers
Amber Bowes

I wanna know have you ever seen ... (by Creedence Clearwater Revival)
A zebra
Alice Daws

I throw my hands up in the air sometimes, saying ... (by Taio Cruz)
Ooo, lets go!
Sara Desai

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling ... (by Taylor Swift)
Happy, just like you
Huda Dollie

Don't stop believin' ... (by Journey)
In magic
Alice Duck

Can anybody find me ... (by Queen)
My love
Hannah Ellison

People always told me Be careful of what you do, don't go around ... (Michael Jackson)
Smoking or doing bad stuff
Frankie Jo Gabriel

Oops! I did it again, I ... (by Britney Spears)
Won't do it again
Indie Gomes

I would walk 500 miles just to ... (by The Proclaimers)
Walk to the park
Annabelle Griffiths

Girls just wanna have ... (by Cyndi Lauper)
Fun at the party
Lucy Hunt

Welcome to the Jungle, we've got ... (by Guns N'Roses)
Animals and food
Yara Kambarami

I never wanna hear you say ... (by The Backstreet Boys)
WHAT?!
Anna Koster

Stars are not only in the sky – they shine like me and you!

WATCH OUR POPSTAR VIDEO

I'm working late, cause I'm a ... (Sabrina Carpenter)
Long sleeper
Aziza Madlala

Wake me up before you ... (by WHAM)
Go to work
Arabella McDonald

You got a fast car, is it fast enough so we can ... (Tracy Chapman)
Go on camp
Aleeya Noorani

I was made for ... (by KISS)
A party
Raadhiya Osman

Wise men say, only fools ... (by Elvis Presley)
Play with noodles
Charlotte Pohl

Somebody told me ... (by the Killers)
The world was macaroni
Elizabeth Power

No matter what I do, all I think about is ...
(by Kelly Rowland and Nelly)
You and me
Sarrinah Rahman

I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want ... (by The Spice Girls)
To be happy
Tahiya Rahman

Every step you take I'll be ... (by The Police)
There with you
Olivia Robbins

Then I go and spoil it all by saying something stupid like ... (Frank Sinatra)
I'm a silly banana
Sophie Simkins

We're just two lost souls swimming in a fish bowl ... (by Pink Floyd)
But no one can see us
Jocelyn Stuart

Every night in my dreams ... (by Celine Dion)
I think about me
Sophie Wessels

Put on you red shoes and ... (by David Bowie)
Top and panties and jersey
Anna Womersley

FOUNDERS DAY

First week of Grade 1

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Grade 1R Activities

Grade 1R Term 2

BOK FRIDAY

Grade 7 Fair

SLIPPER DAY

HANDS ON

MY SENSES

Wonderwall
Our senses

PREP

GRADE 1

Water Unit

WATER CYCLE

Grade 1

Outings

Arderne Gardens outing

Aquarium

Science Centre outing

Planetarium outing

Alice Daws

Anna Lange

Sadie Turner

Amy Harcourt-Wood

Hannah Ellison

Sara Desai

Stella Preston

Ella Cattell

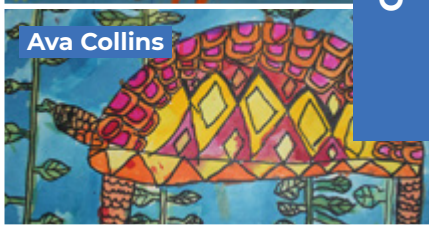
Milaya Jama

PREP

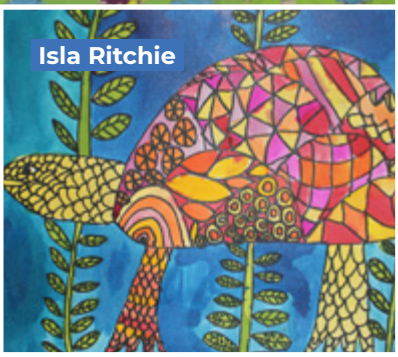
GRADE 1

Sienna Van Staden

Farren Gomes

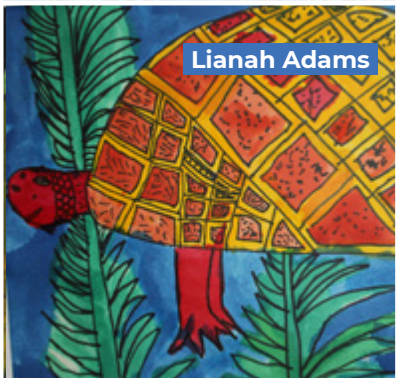

Ava Collins

Anna Koster


Isla Ritchie

Indie Gomes

Huda Dollie


Lianah Adams

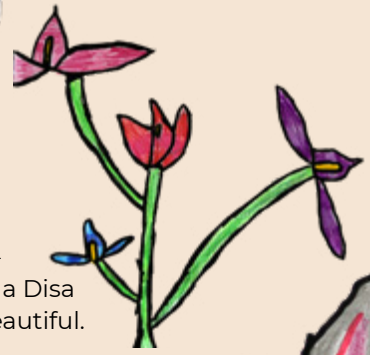
Elizabeth Power

Grade 2 Art

Asma Raja – Penguins stick together just like Herschel Girls.

Unathi Waters – A protea is like Herschel girls tough on the outside and kind on the inside.

Allegra Alston – Everyone is unique like Hyenas spots.



Sienna Murie – Herschel is like a Disa because it is beautiful.

Ingrid Bergenthuin – Herschel in like a Hibiscus, unique, bright and beautiful.

Emily van der Merwe – Zebras stripes are striking and unique like each girl at our school.

Sophie van der Speck – Herschel girls are big and strong like an elephant.

Carniela Magazore – Agapanthas are in a bunch, our girls work together to create beauty.

Grace Speres – We are like cheetahs, we love running fast.

Safaa Abdulla – Aloe plant heals people and smells nice just like our school.

Aylar Darbandi – Hippos are big like our school and strong like the girls.

Georgina Palm – Our girls are like Lily petals, soft and kind.

Scarlet Ralph – Herschel is bright and beautiful like a flamingo flower.

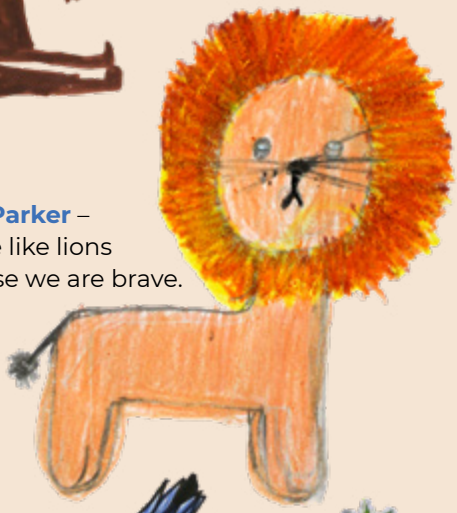
Isabelle Daffue – A Jasmin smells good just like our school.

Aemelia Bam – Our girls are pinned together with kindness like a Pincushion.

Lily Powter – We stand tall and stand out just like giraffes.

Kathryn McArthur – We are brave and clever like a baboon.

Amaal Manuel – Herschel girls stand altogether like meerkats.

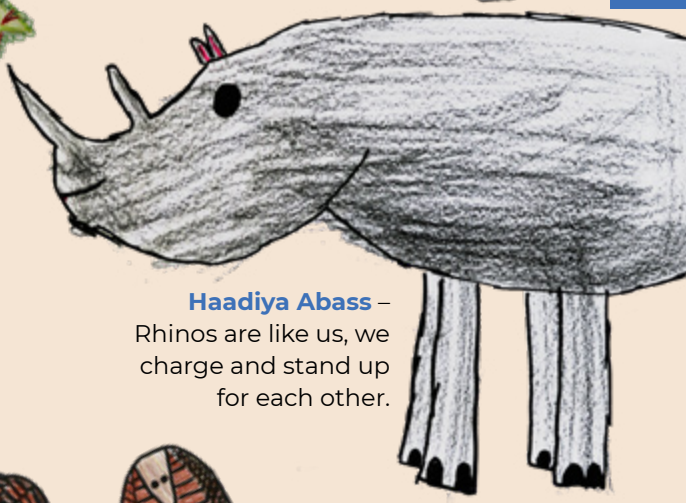


Suha Parker – We are like lions because we are brave.

Sophia Johnson – Herschel girls are like a Springbok because it is strong and fast.

Anna Marshall – We are like Strelitzias. It looks like a bird. We fly together.

Zazi Tshangela – Our girls are strong and fearless like a crocodile.



Haadiya Abass – Rhinos are like us, we charge and stand up for each other.

Julia Louw de Wet – Kudus have good hearing just like us.

Aurora Delson – Daisy petals are stuck together like us, we stick together.

Aria Pillay – Herschel is like a Cape Cobra, in tough situations we can lift our head off the ground.

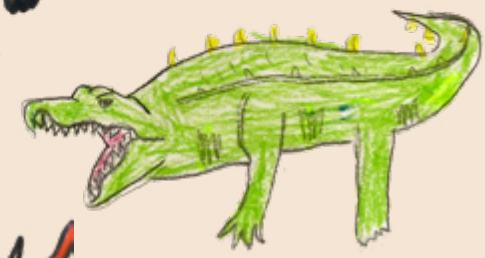
Claire Marsal – Just like Giraffes, Herschel girls are also peaceful and gentle in their nature.

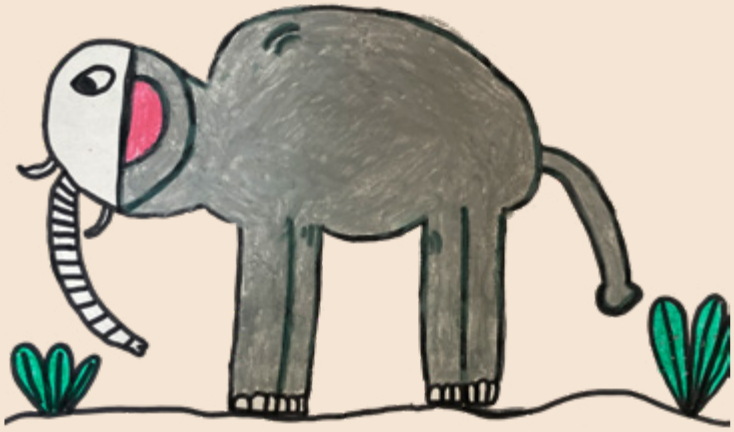
Josie Speres – Cape Cobras are firm and strong willed just like we are as Herschel girls.

Emma Whitfield – Flamingos have pink feathers and Herschel girls have pink blood.

Samiha Ebrahim – The hibiscus petal will fall down and grow again and so will the herschel girls.

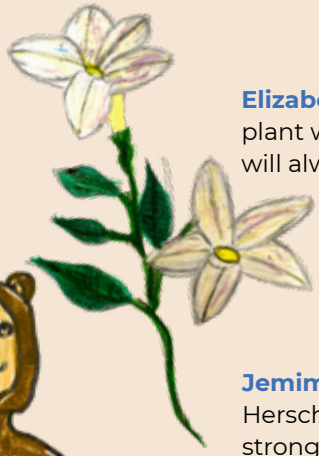
Bella Budden – Just like the crocodile, Herschel girls are able to adapt to any situation.





Elodie Yazdanpanahi – Herschel girls have empathy, compassion and are smart just like the elephant.

Alisa Nqayi – Disa flowers are important to nature and Herschel girls are also important.



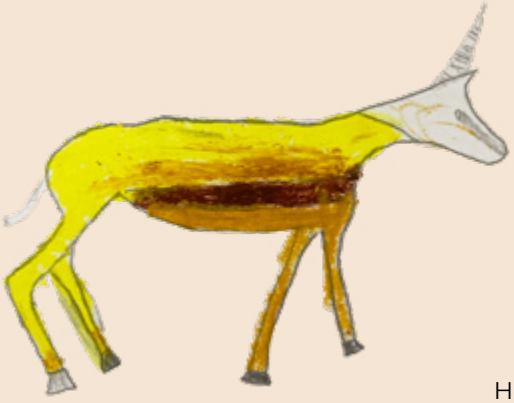
Elizabeth Pearce – Just like the jasmine plant will climb the walls, herschel girls will always climb their way to victory

Charlotte Hodgins – Just like the kudu, Herschel is always graceful.

Amogelang Bengani – Herschel girls are smart and good at solving problems.

Jemima Huber – Herschel girls are strong like daisies.

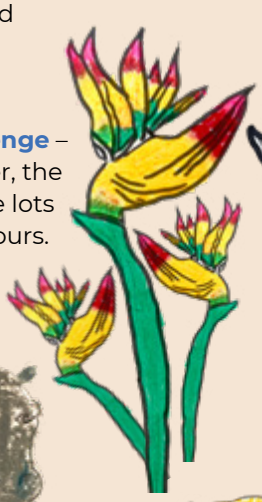
Maya Saunders – Just like lilies represent love, Herschel is also full of love.



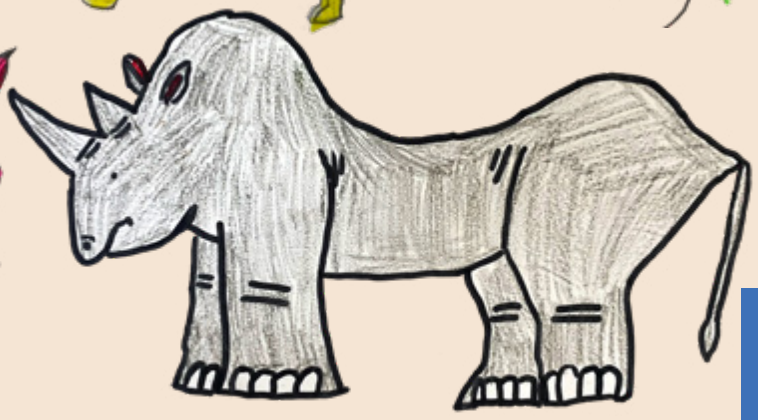
Isabella Osler – Herschel girls are good like very good at running and high jump, just like a springbok.

Pippa Walker – Herschel girls work well in teams.

Ayah Ebrahim – Just like the Pincushion when a herschel girl gets knocked down she will always get back up and bloom.



Malaikah Nienge – Like this flower, the classrooms have lots of colours.



Charlotte Caldicott – We are safe with our teachers like rhinos are with their moms.

Rizqah Bassadien – Hippos are different colours.

Sophia Hughes – Just like the Agapantha, the Herschel Girls are beautiful and their spirit is long lasting.

Emma Laub – Herschel girls come together and work as great teams just like the meerkats.

Mila Sardo – Baboons are strong, powerful and smart just like Herschel girls.

Jessica Baker – Just like the protea, Herschel girls are peaceful and will always stand strong.

Harley Daniels – Aloes store water but instead of water Herschel girls store knowledge.

Saba Corry – Girls have different finger prints like the zebras have different stripes.

Lily Galpin – Herschel Girls are fast and unique like cheetahs.

AQUARIUM

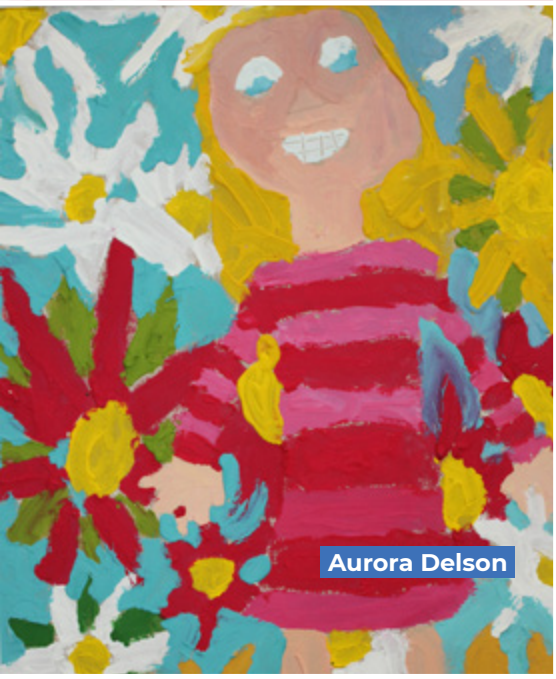
Watch videos

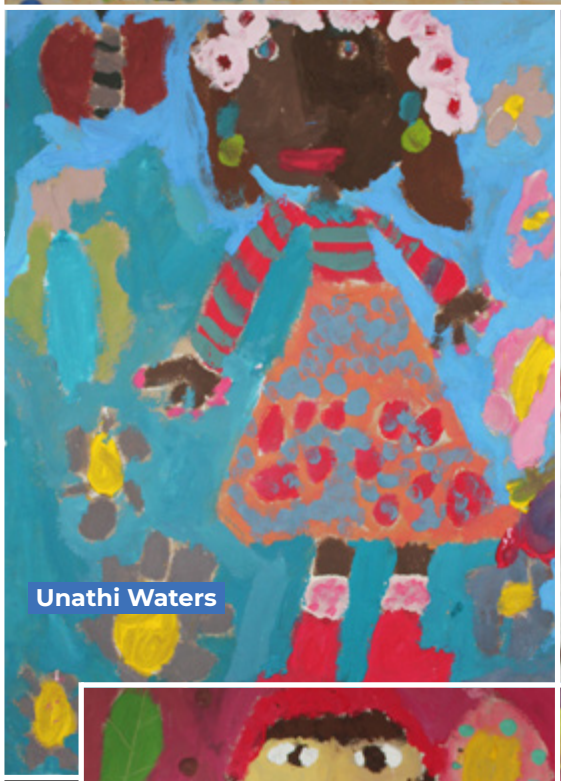
FRIENDSHIP DAY

KINDNESS HOUR

Allegra Alston

Suha Parker


Aurora Delson


Unathi Waters

Grace Speres

PREP

GRADE 2

Asma Raja

Kathryn McArthur

Carniela Magazore

Isabella Osler

Anna Marshall

Grade 3

Fun memories we won't forget

"I will never forget the Victorian Outing where I acted as the poor kid and got into trouble for not paying my school fees and then got into trouble again for sitting in the wrong seat."
– Holly Clarke

*"I will never forget when Amani brought 5 egg babies to school, they all had names and faces. A few days later she came to school crying because her mother had boiled her 'babies' for breakfast." – **Isla McCleland***

"I will never forget the day our resident squirrel stole someone's toastie and ate it in the tree and we spent the entire lesson watching him eat it."
– Sophie Sinclair

*"My favourite thing was making our ecosystem diorama and finally finishing it, I was so proud of how it turned out." – **Insaaf Pillay***

*"The best part about being in Grade 3K was making new friends." – **Elizabeth Murray***

*"I will never forget when we got to make a hip-hop song on Suno (AI) about the demure Grade 3K girls and a unicorn, it was hilarious and we danced like we owned it." – **Asa Tofile***

"I loved doing the body parts and organs project where we got to present what we learned to our parents."
– Emily Webb-Smith

"The things I won't forget are having the circus visit us, then having a day of science experiments followed by the Big Walk all in one week!" –
Mia Goliath

"It was so fun having Mrs Robbertze baby shower at school."
– Naomi Sheraton

"I loved it when we made our own toebroodtjies in Afrikaans and the fruit salad in Xhosa."
– Christina Peroglou

"When the High School fire alarm went off for a practice drill and we all thought it was real and ran around the school terrified." – ***Holly Billett***

PREP

GRADE 3

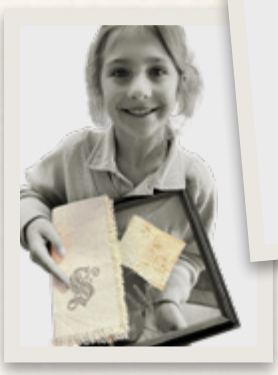
"When we all made our own slime at school." – ***Riley Fox***

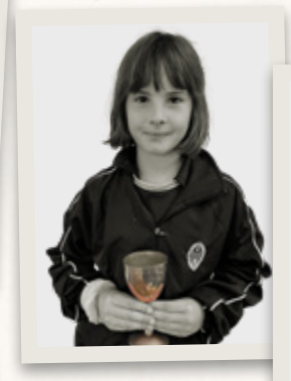
"I loved the outing that we went on to the Education Museum and learnt all about the Old Victorian times." – ***Eva Briggs***

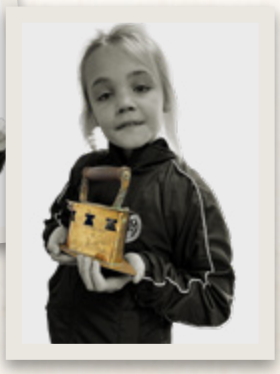
"The best was when Lottie Books came to visit us at Herschel!"
– Scarlett Snaith

"I loved being able to decorate and create our own Math's hats!"
– Maia Lowther

Victorian Day







Watch videos

Grade 3 What I know for sure...

Never trust your au pair when she says she's going to dress up as an old granny with make-up and a wig and rock up at your Grandparents' Day! Luckily, she didn't do this, but I was preparing to be embarrassed. – **Tarisai Mhere**

If anyone ever asks you if you like someone or not, always say you do, always, always, always. There is something likeable about every person. – **Sarah Neville**

Never trust your dad when he says he will help you zipline. You will end up with a green stick fracture, but you might also just get a slushie! – **Holly Clarke**

Don't trust your brother to just take a bite of your chocolate, if you let him, he will eat your entire chocolate and won't even feel bad about it! – **Ariana Esack**

My advice is to never drop your tooth on the floor as your dog will think it is popcorn and eat it and the tooth fairy isn't coming for no tooth! – **Giorgiana McGregor**

Never give your brother an audio book to listen to because he will enjoy it too much and won't have time for anything else. – **Francesca Elliott**

Never put your friend and your brother as hide 'n seek partners. They will let you go hide and won't bother to look for you and instead start a different game together. – **Isla McCleland**

Never trust your brother in the pool when he suggests playing a game, the game will always involve trying to drown you! – **Sophie Sinclair**

Never try taking money from your older brother without his knowledge or else he will make you pay with your life! – **Emily Webb-Smith**

Never trust your cousins when they say they will just take one bite out of your dessert, because what they really mean is that they will eat the whole thing! – **Isla Titus**

Never ever attempt the monkey bars if you are unsure... I tried it once in Grade R and it did not end well! It ended with a broken arm. – **Insaaf Pillay**

Just so you are aware Mrs Mde and Miss Khan are the best, but together they are very mischievous and they run a very crazy class so be prepared and don't say I didn't warn you! – **Charlotte Lewis**

When you go to WetPups fun night, do not, and I repeat, do not enter the haunted room, you will be terrified and need adult support! – **Emily Snaith**

If you decide to get into a pillow fight with your older brother and he has a huge pillow, make sure yours is even bigger or else you will go flying after one swipe! – **Elizabeth Murray**

Never trust Mrs Mde with your tooth as she will take it into the staffroom with her and hand it to another teacher for 'safe keeping', but no one will know where your tooth actually is! – **Fatimah Mia**

Never decide to play a game with your uncle and sister on a balcony with a cactus. You will spend hours taking cactus spikes out of your hand! – **Imaan Khan**

Do not ever trust your older brother to give you a back massage because you will end up with the biggest bruises ever as he will literally punch your back and expect a 'thank you' after. – **Amani Buthelezi**

Never trust your older cousins they might just leave you locked in the car inside the garage! – **Asa Tofile**

If you are in Miss Khan's class never show her if you are bleeding, she will faint on the spot! – **Mia Goliath**

Never trust your older cousin with advice when you are very little, he will tell you to eat with your mouth open and not wash your hands and you will get into trouble! – **Cara Lyall**

Never try a cheese touch on your brother, he will come back and punch you! – **Amber Fels**

Never trust your cousin with any personal information as he will always lie and get you into trouble. – **Lily Duncan**

When you are visiting family in Dubai and decide to go to the mall, never trust your cousin when she says she knows the mall well, because you are most likely to get lost! – **Kate Maggott**

Grade 3 Lessons I've learnt

Do not walk on the driveway or else you will get shouted at by Mrs Cowie! – **Zime Maila**

Make sure you don't go on a seesaw with your friend, and their nanny at the same time, because when the nanny gets off the seesaw, you will fly off and break your arm! – **Riley du Plessis**

My mom said NEVER go on the monkey bars or you will hurt yourself, which I did, and I cracked my head open. – **Scarlett Snaith**

Never go in the pool without sunscreen or you will first, get very burnt and second, get shouted at! – **Lucy Lamb-Hughes**

Never rush in your tests because then you will get the answer wrong, you must try your best. – **Anna Beadle**

Never run to break with your lunch bag open otherwise everything will fall out. – **Hanna Vawda**

Don't run too fast or you will fall and break your arm and then you will miss out on all the fun things. – **Holly Billett**

Never rush a test to be first and for you to think that you are the best worker in the class, you must just do the best you can. – **Christina Peroglou**

Don't forget to listen to the teacher at all times, otherwise you might forget something and get into trouble. – **Antoinette Stuart**

Do not stress in any situation, it will only make things worse. – **Clara Whittaker**

Don't forget your test book at home, otherwise you have to write on scrap paper, and it will get lost. – **Ashley Fairweather**

I've learnt too not offer to sit on the backseat with our family friends 3-year-old son because he will end up bullying you and throwing his toys at you and your mom will take his side – ALWAYS! – **Alina Essop**

Don't forget to do all of your homework or you will have to do it tomorrow with all of that days homework too, which is the worst. – **Nina D'Assonville**

Don't forget your working out for your Maths sums or your teacher will get mad. – **Jessie Naidoo**

Remember to put cream on your legs or else your friends will notice they are dry. – **Naomi Sheraton**

You have to make sure you eat an apple a day, otherwise you will have to go to the doctor. – **Emma Brasecke**

Do not forget to do your homework, or else you will have to come up with an excuse. – **Amelia Golding**

My mom told me to make sure I go to sleep when we were in the car, so that I do not get carsick (I didn't) and then I vomited all the way in the car. Always listen to your mom. – **Riley Fox**

I learnt to always be honest with everyone or else the consequence will not be good. – **Humaira Masud**

Always tell the truth or else you are done for! – **Georgia Lewis**

Do not forget to do your homework or else you will have to do double the next day, which means MORE WORK. – **Layaan Rahim**

I must not leave my stuff at school otherwise I will get shouted at by my mom. – **Maia Lowther**

Don't be grumpy about going to school, because only a handful of children get to go to a school like Herschel – **Charlotte Dunn**

I learnt that Grade 3 is a lot harder than Grade 2 because you have a lot more tests! – **Scarlett Snaith**

Ashley Fairweather

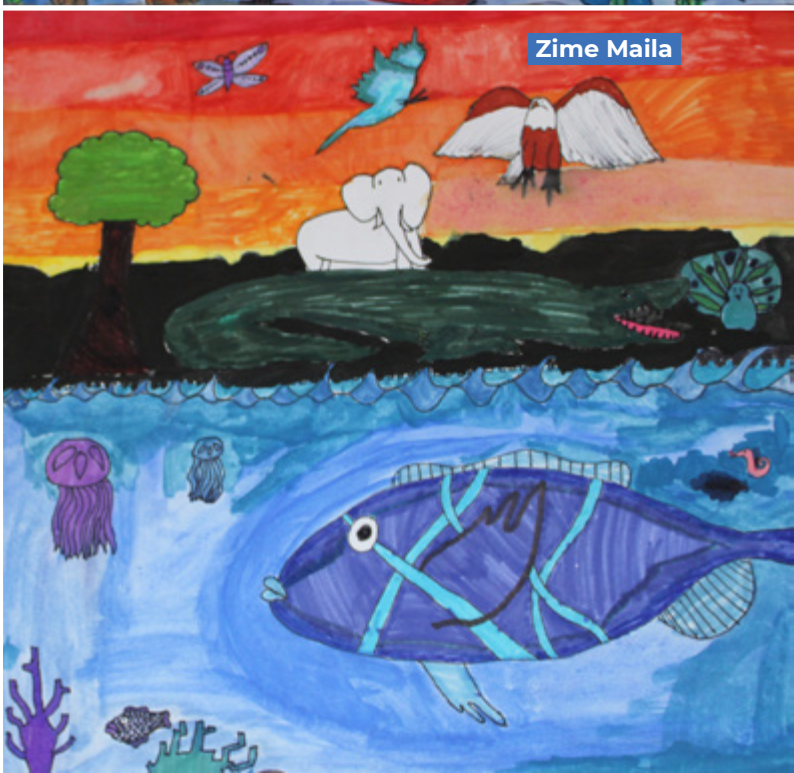
Alina Essop

Grade 3 Art

Nina D'Assonville

Layaan Rahim

Amelia Golding


Zime Maila

Antoinette Stuart

Grade 4

Garden of Growth

Our focus for this year was to give every girl the chance to bloom in her way.

In our classroom garden, each girl brought her colours, talents and ideas, creating a vibrant space where everyone could grow. With encouragement as our sunshine and curiosity as our water, we watched confidence take root and new skills blossom – celebrating every step of learning along the way.

Poems

Hannah
Creative, loyal, kind, funny
Daughter of Pippa and Alex
Who loves drawing, shopping and dogs
Who fears tsunamis and scary movies
Who needs her friend and dogs
Who gives funny memories and nice hugs
Who would like to see the Maldives
Resident of Newlands, Cape Town
Hunt
– Hannah Hunt

Gymnastics
On the bar
In the air
Across the mat
Near the crowd
In the moment
With your team
Beneath your doubts
With your fear
– Deeyana Kader

Sophia
Funny, kind, daring, happy
Daughter of Chris and Vanessa
Who loves fashion, acting and joking
Who needs encouragement and fun
Who gives happiness, hugs and laughter
Who would like to see a play she wrote
on stage
Resident of Newlands, Cape Town
Hall.
– Sophia Hall

Beside the goalie
In the goals
The ball goes flying
Among the teammates
I'm off the court
The ball goes through
We're through to champs
We have won it all.
– Eloise Slingsby

Saarah
Creative, kind, warm, funny
Daughter of Fatima and Moosa
Who loves family and friends
Who fears monsters in the dark and not being good enough
Who needs love, family and friends
Who gives hope, warm hugs and kindness
Who would like to see people in heaven and getting along
Resident of Pinelands, Cape Town
Joseph.
Saarah Joseph

Out of the door
Into the car
Past the traffic
From the door
To my coach
On the court
Passed the ball
Across to me
Through the air
In the hoop
A GOAL!!
– Charlotte Smit

Spring
Bloom, laugh
Blooming, laughing, smiling
Flowers, pool, leaves, trees
Jumping, snuggling, playing
Cool, calm
Autumn
– Eva Szabo

Kuhle
Funny, loving, wonderful, amazing
Son of Qhama and Nokuzola
Who loves music, drama and dancing
Who fears spiders and flies
Who needs his friends
Who gives awesome pieces
Resident of Pinelands, Cape Town
Cossie
– Elimyoli Cossie

Candy
Sweet, yummy
Eating, dancing, smiling
Lollipop, chocolate; broccoli, carrots
Eating, frowning, spitting
Healthy, yucky
Veggies.
– **Helen Neethling**

With paws and claws
Into the grass
Under the trees
Through the savanna
Over there
Beside the cubs
Around me, it hunts
Without fear
But I run away,
Out of the danger
Until next time.
– **Azura Puglia**

Dawn
Sunlight, warm
Rising, brightening, waking
Sunrise, light; sunset, dark
Sleeping, cooling, fading
Cold, pretty
Dusk.
– Ayah Isaacs

Fire
Burning, spreading,
sparking
Braai, coal; pool, sea
Falling, gushing, drinking
Water.
– **Annabelle Bam**

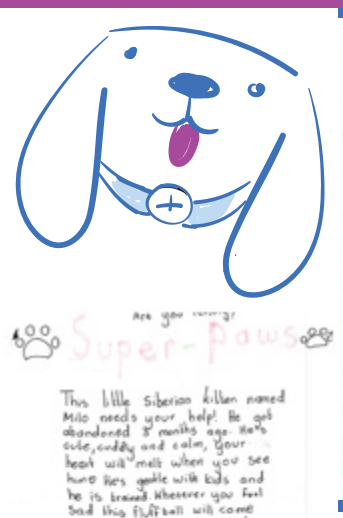
Leopard
Fast, quick
Running, eating, sleeping
Will always have spots
Animal
– Mackenzie Abernethy

Hafsa
Brave, kind, loyal, resistant
Daughter of Ebrahim and Shihaam
Who loves her family
Who fears the dark
Who needs support and encouragement
Who gives hugs and smiles
Who would like to see kindness in the world
Resident of Wynberg
Fakir.
– Hafsa Fakir

Grade 4

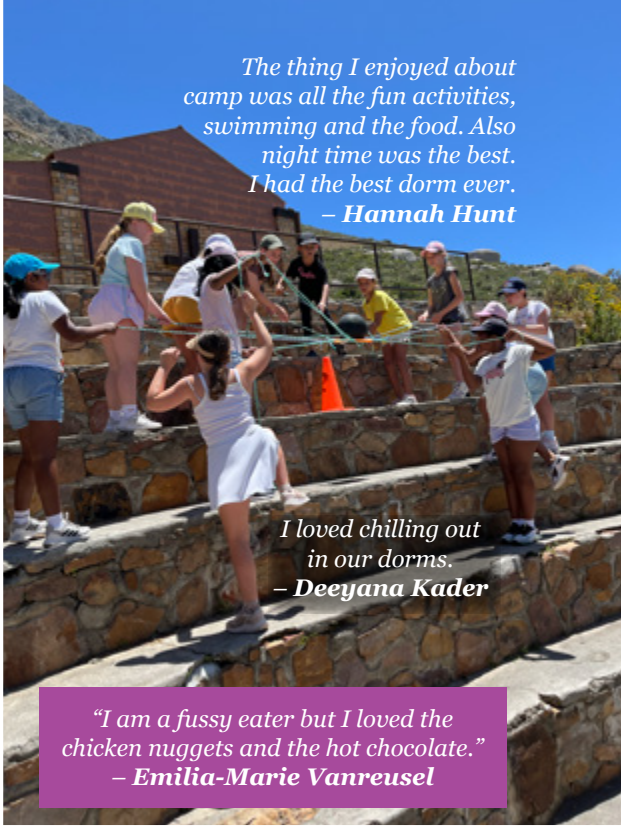
Persuasive Writing:

Animal Posters



Grade 4 Camp

Before I went on camp I was really worried but when I got there and met the facilitators and started playing all the games and went to our dorms I immediately changed my mind. We got to do axe throwing, archery and even go on a night hike! I LOVED camp.
– Eva Szabo



The thing I enjoyed about camp was all the fun activities, swimming and the food. Also night time was the best. I had the best dorm ever.
– Hannah Hunt

I loved chilling out in our dorms.
– Deeyana Kader

"I am a fussy eater but I loved the chicken nuggets and the hot chocolate."
– Emilia-Marie Vanreusel

I enjoyed how independent we were. We washed our own dishes, locked our own doors and looked after ourselves. It felt good.
– Emily Duff

I enjoyed camp it was really fun and I wish I could go back.my favourite part was when we went on the hike, even though it was really hard. I really enjoyed it.
– Lily Pienaar

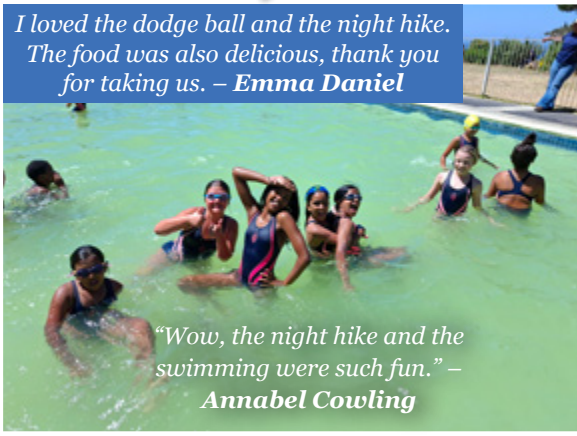
My favourite thing about camp was when we played all the activities and when we made our war cry. ***– Kate Muzzell***

"I loved making up a chant for our team and drumming." ***Maya Gajjar***

The night hike was kinda crazy but cool. It was really funny when girls peed in the bush it got me laughing. I absolutely loved my dorm, we had so much fun.
– Aayah Khan

"I enjoyed the axe-throwing. It was so much fun and I felt like a Viking!"
– Sophie Power

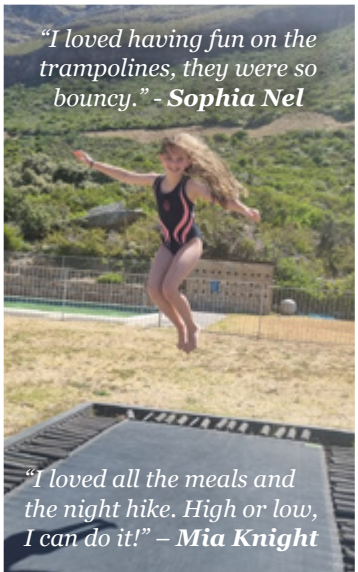
I loved the dodge ball and the night hike. The food was also delicious, thank you for taking us. ***– Emma Daniel***



"Wow, the night hike and the swimming were such fun." ***– Annabel Cowling***

"Chocolate and sunrise at 05:15 showed me how awesome camp was." ***– Frida-Märta Wilkinson***

"I loved having fun on the trampolines, they were so bouncy." ***- Sophia Nel***

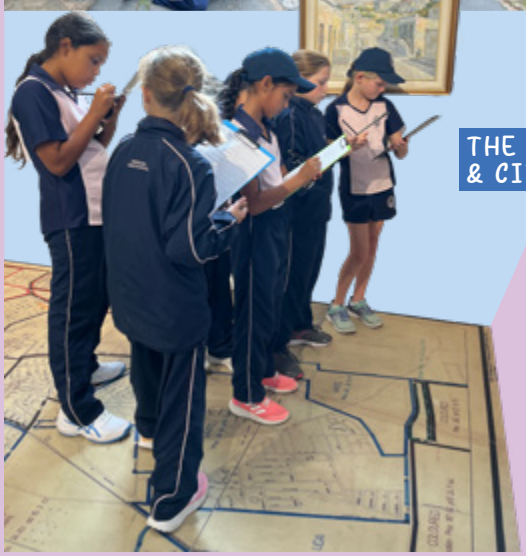


"I loved all the meals and the night hike. High or low, I can do it!" ***– Mia Knight***

"I love making war cries in groups, that was fun." ***Nehara Moodley***

Grade 4
Outings

THE MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM



THE CASTLE & CITY HALL

Grade 4
Art

Arabella Saunders

Unjali Naidoo

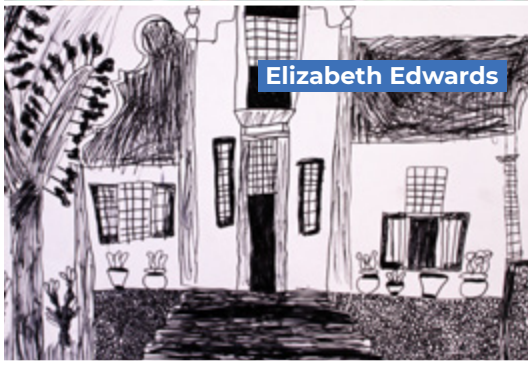
Meg Thompson

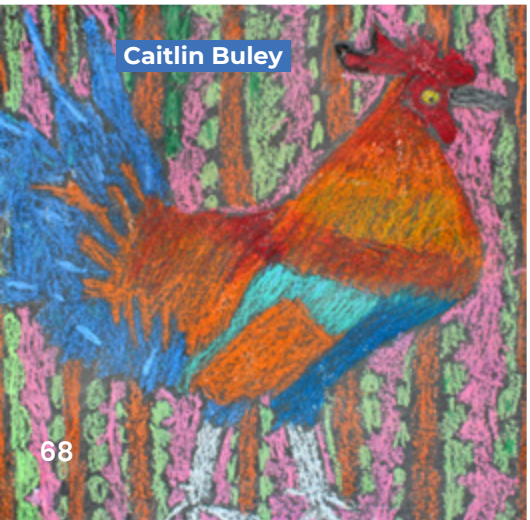
Liora Mzozoyana

Kate Thomas

Stella-Belle Sale

Hannah Hunt


Elizabeth Edwards


Caitlin Buley

Sophia-Kate Thomalla

Charlotte Groenewald

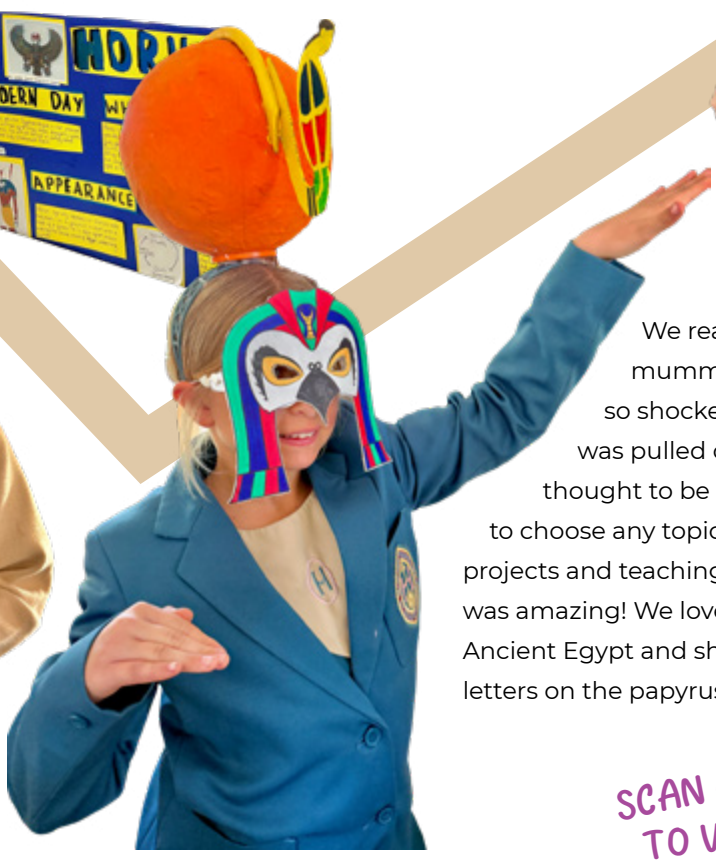
Grade 5

SPRINGBOKS

Grade 5

Ancient Egypt

We liked learning about the tombs and the discoveries of King Tut. We learned that you are never too young to do something incredible. Learning about the pyramids of Egypt was the most interesting! Egypt day was fun, we all had a blast! It was funny watching our peers try to piece together their projects. A lot of effort went into this project and we all agreed Egypt Day was an amazing experience for us all!



We really enjoyed learning about the mummification process and were so shocked to find out that the brain was pulled out through the nose and was thought to be useless! It was so fun getting to choose any topic about Ancient Egypt for our projects and teaching our classmates. Egypt Day was amazing! We loved teaching our parents about Ancient Egypt and showing them our Howard Carter letters on the papyrus paper we made.

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW MORE

Grade 5 Poems

Unhappy hats

I opened my closet and what did I see?
But thousands of hats stacked very neatly.
Then suddenly I heard a yell and a shout,
I turned around swiftly to see what it's about.

All of my hats where there shouting in dismay
"Hana oh Hana please wear me today!"
Pushing and shoving they hopped all around,
Throwing themselves dramatically to the ground.

Then I heard, SMACK! BANG! BOOM! POW!
My gosh! What on earth am I going to do now?
" What a mess!" I cried. Then I had an idea.

I'll wear all my hats without fear
Everyone is happy it's good as can be!
I'll just have to wait till my next party.

Hana Ebrahim

The lovely lunch

Annabelle Mandy-Woodcock

When I walked into the kitchen
What did I see
Some yummy pizza winking at me
I was ready to dish
A delicious big fish
I saw greasy chips swimming in oil
Terrified tomatoes going to boil
A million little peas staring up at me
And a burger pulling me in
Spaghetti swiftly slithering in a bowl
before I could take a bite
I heard my mom calling " Honey it's
time for school."

WHAT I THINK ABOUT IN BED

As I lay in my bed
the thoughts in my head start to overflow,
I have so many things I think about
Do you want to know?

Is the Earth going to give birth
when I am as old as time?

Is the Sun a crispy, glowing bun
who has told a thousand tales?

Is the moon a big balloon
who smiles above us all?

Is Neptune a shiny tablespoon
who is scalded by the cold?

Are the stars small light jars
who dance and have a ball?

Are asteroids falling toys
from the gods up above?

Thats a lot of things to think about
I feel like I'm a dove

As I lay in my bed
the thoughts in my head start to overflow,
I have so many things I think about
I now have let you know

Georgia Thom

THE PENCIL CASE STOMACH ACHE

My pencil case has a stomach ache,
My pens are running free,
My koki's trying to bake a cake,
My pencil's brewing tea

My pair of scissors are on the run,
My glue is giggling with glee,
My rubber's having loads of fun,
While buzzing like a bee

All of this would not go on,
If I did this you see,
If I just cleaned my pencil case,
School would be lots less work for me.

Nina West

The Tragic Talent Show

Springboks jump,
hippos land in a thump,
giraffes swing their head,
lions pull invisible thread,
Elephants fall in the pool,
monkeys are as stubborn as a mule,
bears are trying so hard to smile,
the goats teeth were so shiny you could see it from a mile,
penguins play basketball,
ostriches even scored a goal,
it is becoming late we have to go,
so this is the end of the Tragic Talent show.

Zoe Lowan

The Intimidating Snack Board

I Just came home from school,
It felt like a million years since I've
been home.
I walked inside my house and I saw
the snack board staring at me,
I also saw my favourite chips
and they were calling my name,
the cheddars were dancing,
the fruit snaps were clapping,
the popcorn was cackling
and the ice-cream was tanning.
I was just standing there feeling
overwhelmed.
It seemed like a disco party with
dancing, clapping, cackling and
tanning.
I gobbled everything up
but that doesn't matter,
at last I'm full.

Nabiha Ebrahim

PARTY IN MY CRAYON BOX

There's a party in my crayon box,
they're giving my mum quite big shocks!

Red's dancing to the tango,
Orange is eating lots of mango!

Yellow is hanging up the disco ball
Green's wishing he was at the mall!

THUD! Blue is jumping all around,
Purple is exhausted on the ground.

All the colours of the rainbow partying like animals.

I really want to colour either them,
But gosh they are not being rational!

Camilla Popham-Hollaway

The Classroom Crash!

Everything silent, not a peep to be heard
Until...Crash! I think that was a bird.

The pencils are dancing
The curtains are sleeping

Oh no! The erasers are weeping,
The board was like a tiger,
vicious in the room

The chairs were sweeping using a broom!
Until I awoke I finally saw,
That fractions were looking at me in awe.

Sarah Ebrahim

Grade 5 Camp

Grade 5
Outings

Grade 5 Art

PREP

GRADE 5

Liyanda Mafanya

Alayah Salie

Kundiso Runyowa

Sienna Susman

Emily Melck

Emma Wood

Georgia Walmisley

Nabiha Ebrahim

Sloane Van Loggerenberg

Rosie Weldon

Georgia Thom

Waifika Mbatha

Zoe Lowan

Ifrah Hassan

Sarah Ebrahim

Hana Abdulla

Katherine Morrissey

Grade 6

Building curious minds and independent thinking

What do you wonder about?

Are zebras white with black stripes or black with white stripes?

Why is it so much easier to teach a dog than most other pets?

What were humans put on this earth to do?

If humans can see water, can fish see air?

If birds are supposed to fly then how come some birds can't?

How do we know the Universe is bigger than just our Solar System and have we ever been further than just our Solar System?

What is the purpose of learning English?

How do dolphins know that sharks are dangerous?

Why does the ocean have so many undiscovered layers?

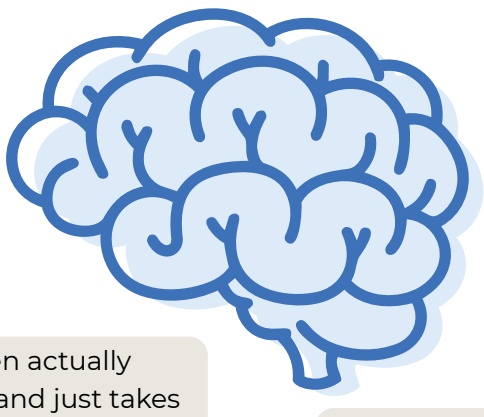
Why is the core of the Earth as hot as the sun?

Why do words mean what they mean? What if cat means dog and dog means cat?

What would the world be like if dinosaurs were still alive?

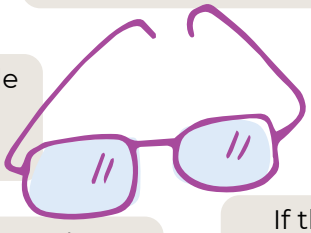
How is space black, but we can't see the darkness?

Who invented chess and how did they decide the rules of it?



If bats and pigeons are not closely related to rodents, why are they called 'rats with wings'?

How do blind people imagine the world?



Why do some people have privilege and others do not?

Is oxygen actually poisonous and just takes 75 to 100 years to kill us?

How did people think of tape?

What would happen to humans if woolly mammoths were alive again?

If the government knows about the ocean plastic waste in our seas, why are some of them not doing anything?

Why do people get old?

What do you wonder about?

Why do most countries not have purple on their flags?

Why is water a liquid?

I wonder why certain communities don't have access to fresh and clean water.

I wonder why everyone just can't look after our earth and why most people don't care.

I wonder what forces causes the earth and other planets to spin.

Why don't we do talent shows?

Why is the sky blue?

What does mars look like if we were to live on it?

Why is the ocean water salty and where does that salt come from?

How did all the sand and seashells get onto the beach?

Why do different plants flowers have different colour flowers?

Why can't people time travel?

What makes us so important that we deserve clean water while people in rural areas don't get clean water?

Why does the school not have vollyball?

How much microplastic is in our bodies?

Is life just a dream?

Why can trees grow so tall?

Why are humans the only things on earth that have to pay on earth and all other species don't?

How the northern lights get its colours.

What if dinosaurs are still alive and we just don't know it?

What if someone sees colours differently and just calls it the same thing? And if we somehow discovered this, how would we know who is the one that is seeing wrong?

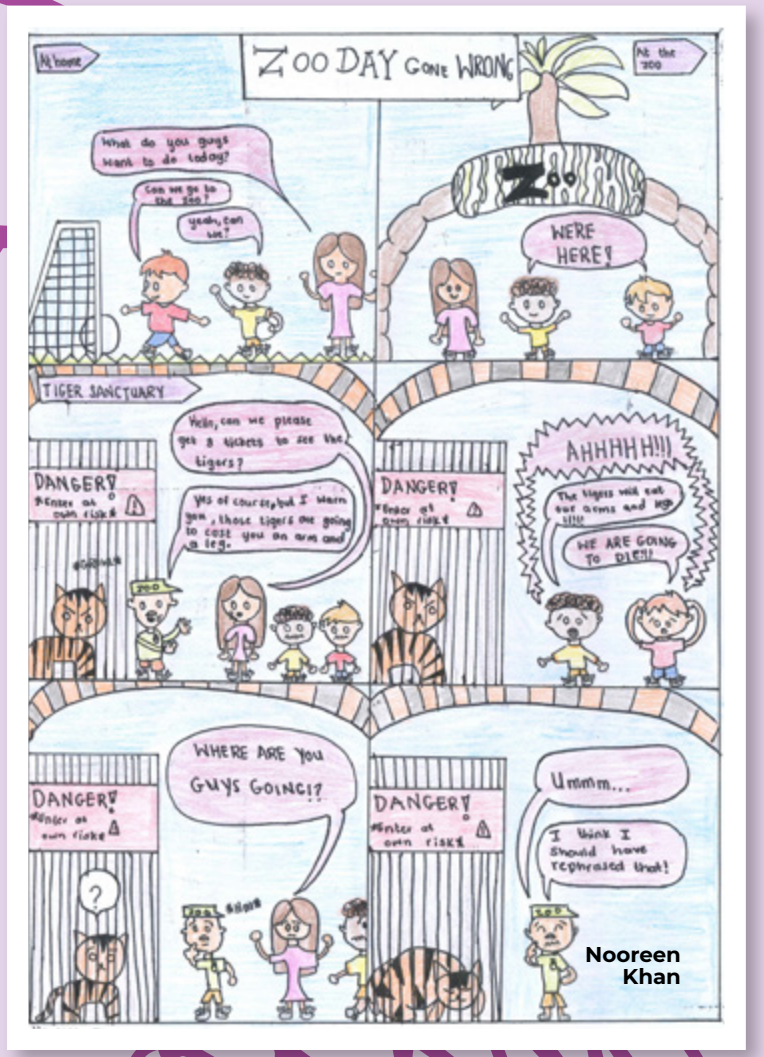
Why can't you feel clouds even though its full of water?

Why is the sky from earth blue, but space is black?

Grade 6

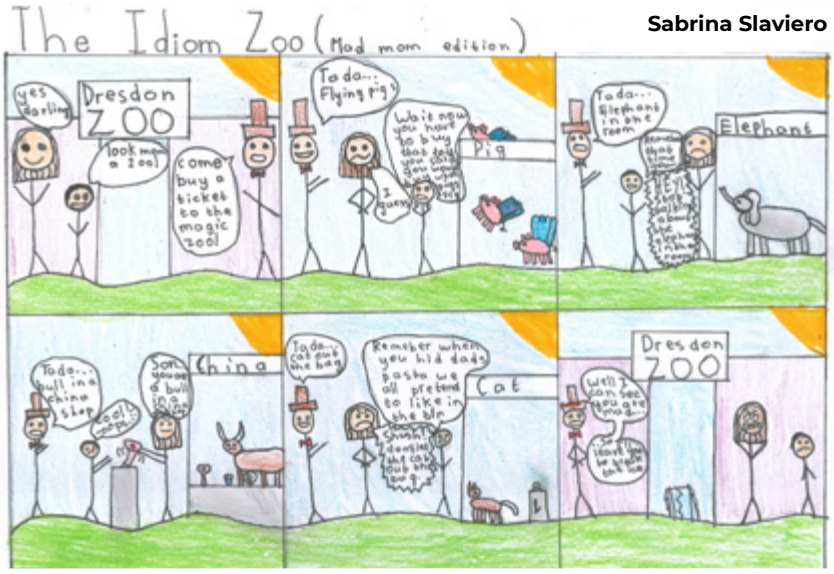
Comics

Giorgia McHarry



Nooreen Khan

Zariya Khan



Sabrina Slaviero

Brooke Stanley

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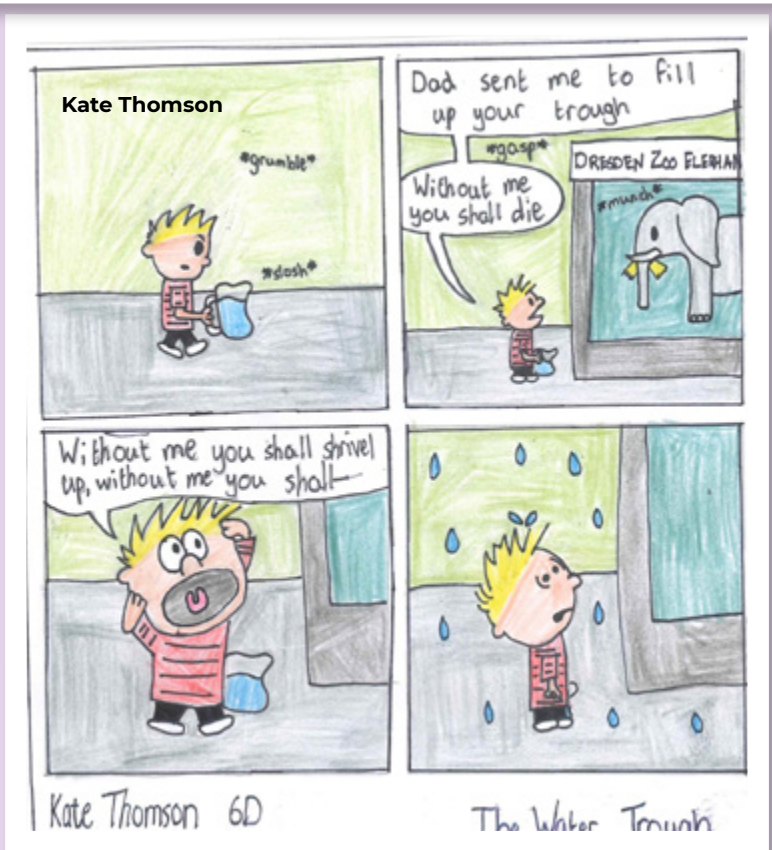
Amelia Boyes

Aliah Hisham

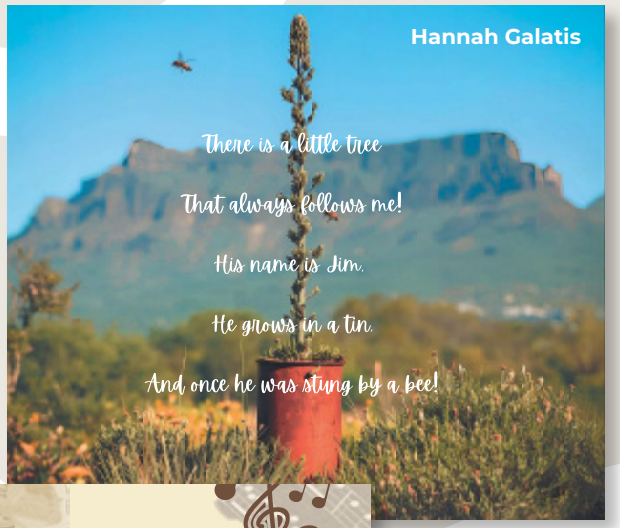


Kate Thomson

PREP

GRADE 6

Grade 6
Poems



Hannah Galatis

Poetry

Poetry tells a story,
Of sad times, glad times, in between times,
Each poem is different in its own special way,
Try to write one, it's not as easy as it looks,
Read them carefully because their meanings are often hidden between the lines,
Yes, poetry is a tool used to tell a story.

-Sophia Hart-

Sophia Hart

Music

Music is something so simple, yet so complex

Its so beautiful, deep and inspiring

Each note comes and then says goodbye just like that

The sound of the sweet harmonies and melody are like two people dancing in an eternal dance

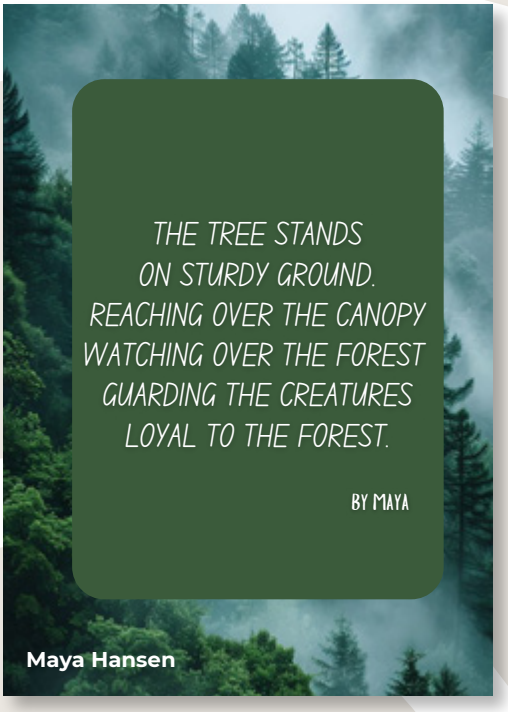
Music is magnificent, magical and marvellous

Music is like a journey that never ends

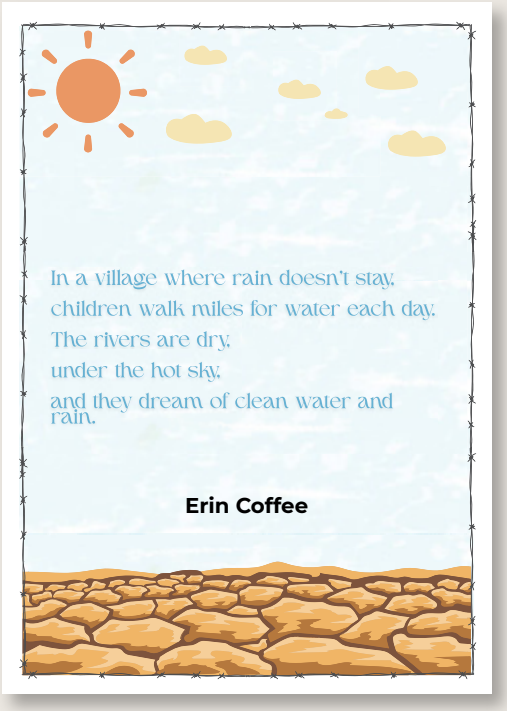
Fatimah Ismail

Fatimah Ismail

Scan for more poems



Maya Hansen



Erin Coffee

Friends

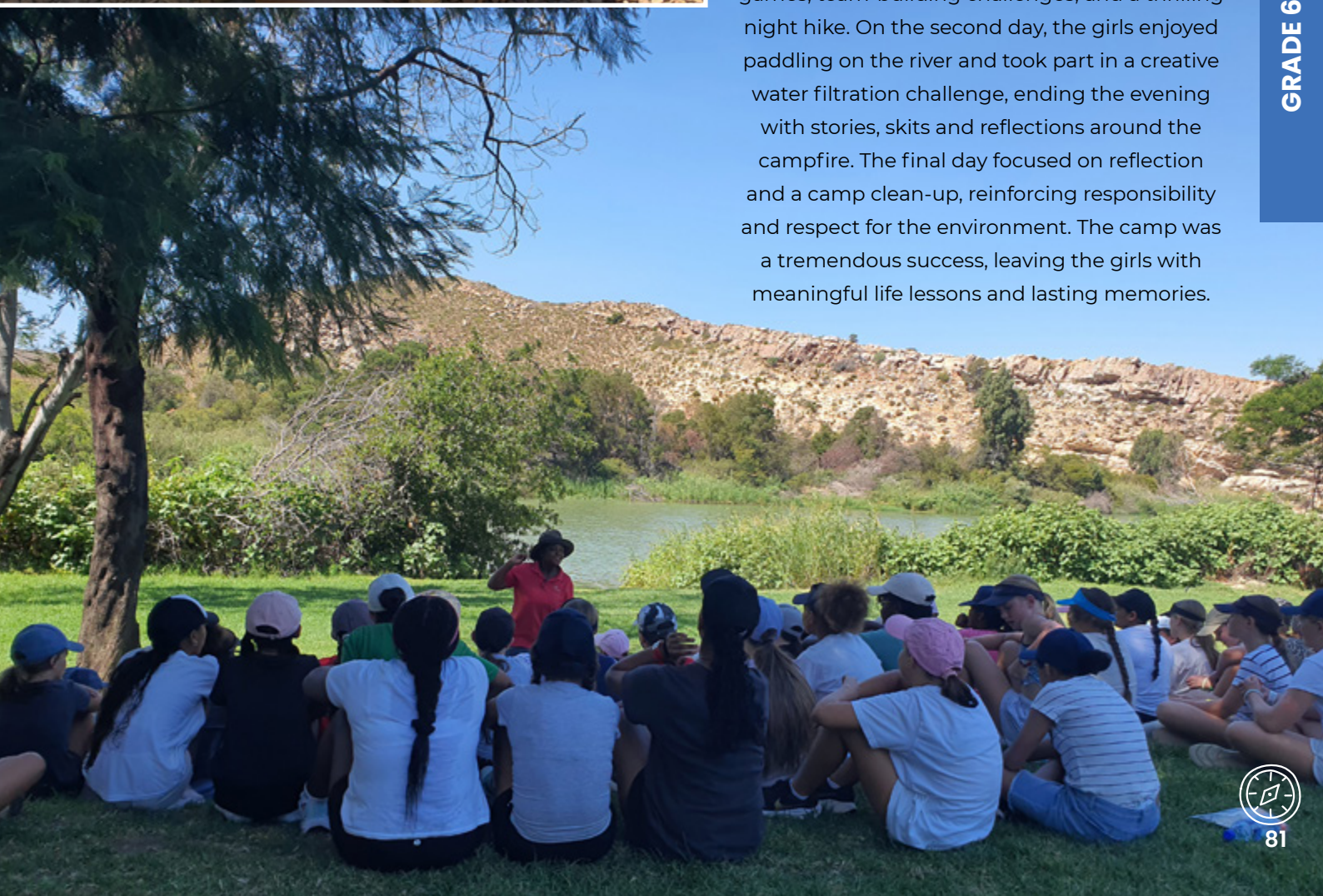
friends being by your side
real friendship stay together
i cant imagine my life without it.
every day I see my friends
no one can brake that bond
don't worry our bond it's like a big tree it won't fall .
selfless bond between two people
heart beats louder when you see them
I can't replace my friendship
people can help you through life

Farrah Maree

Grade 6 Camp

The Grade 6 camp was an unforgettable experience filled with adventure, teamwork, and personal growth.

Over three days, the girls embraced a range of activities that challenged them both physically and mentally while strengthening their bonds as a grade. The first day featured icebreaker games, team-building challenges, and a thrilling night hike. On the second day, the girls enjoyed paddling on the river and took part in a creative water filtration challenge, ending the evening with stories, skits and reflections around the campfire. The final day focused on reflection and a camp clean-up, reinforcing responsibility and respect for the environment. The camp was a tremendous success, leaving the girls with meaningful life lessons and lasting memories.



Grade 6

Outings

BEACH CLEANUP

TABLE MOUNTAIN

Grade 6 Art

Salma Sonday

Georgia McHarry

Zoe George

Olivia Duff

Fatimah Ismail

Sophia Graef

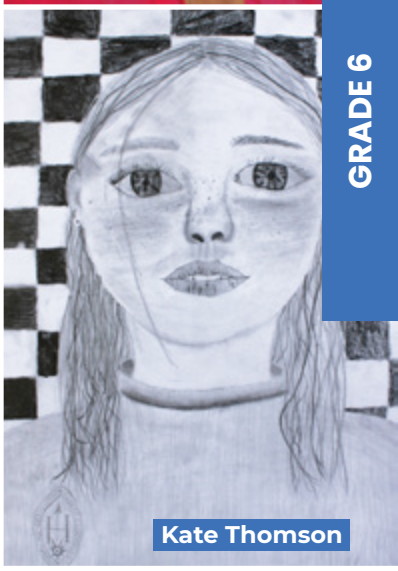
Ava Duff

Imrah Saban

Letsatsi Termark

Hannah Galatis

Maya Hansen


Kate Thomson

Erin Coffee

Emma Logan

Justine Louw de Wet

PREP

GRADE 6

Grade 7

Ready for Take-Off

Celebrating the transition into high school as we launch into a new adventure.

Grade 7
Poems

BEAUTIFUL BEAST

By Caroline Rogers

If the ocean could talk
it would scream and shout,
like a giant beast
crashing and thrashing about.

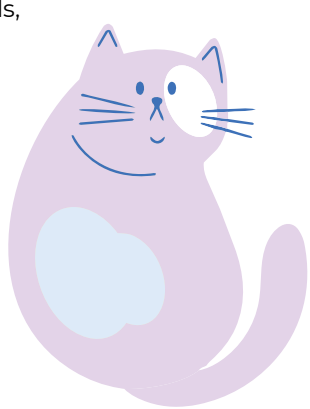
It would say, I matter,
all the plants and creatures too.
Why are you destroying me?
Stop doing what you do!

Stop catching our watery friends,
they deserve to live
free in the ocean
and they will not forgive.

But if we work together,
there can be peace,
the ocean will be calm
and its temper will cease.

The current will guide us
through the tides of time,
our hopeful children will rise
and push us over the finish line.

The waves will whisper softly
along the shimmering sand
and together in perfect harmony
the ocean and mankind will stand.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CAT

By Amelia Mandy-Woodcock

This morning I woke up and I discovered
My breakfast had not yet been uncovered
So I went to wake my pet human politely
By standing on her face, meowing slightly
After a ton of convincing, I finally got food
Purring, happy, I freely chewed.

As my pet goes to her desk for work
I lie on her keyboard with my usual quirk
"Out! Off!" the pesty pet cries
And I jump off just from surprise!
The issue with me there, I'll never know
That pet is crazy – I'm an innocent calico!

That preposterous pet leaves for some coffee
Taking the destructive dog with
So badly bored, I am alone
Ooh! I can decorate the clothes she's sewn
I roll around, my fur everywhere
On dresses of silk and shawls of mohair.

When the pet eventually comes home
What she did, you'll never know
She still had coffee, topped with cream
She kept it to herself, how menacingly mean!
Well, I tried to get some, just to be moved
That pet chased me out! I'm now in a mood.

I go outside to lie in the sun
The dog's chasing a ball, he calls it "fun"
I suppose I should find something to eat
So I'm on the hunt for pigeon meat
Try, try, try, run, jump, paw, bang, flutter
No success, I'll go inside to that human's clutter.

I lie on the couch, looking depressed
That human doesn't care (you've probably guessed)
And says, "Get up princess!"
Really, her rudeness is excess
I get up to hunt for a shrew
Stalk, slap, hiss, nip. The rodent's been chewed.

The night has come, I'm on the pet's bed
I purr, purr, purr and she tickles my head
"Good kitty, sweet kitty," she says in delight
But she has no idea what I'll do tonight.

A TEACHER'S RED PEN

By Solange Akampurira

Crosses, ticks, comments for sure
The teacher's read pen knows it all.
Every mark each student gets,
The teacher's red pen never regrets.

It sometimes takes a nap like babies who crawl,
It needs its rest after all it draws.
Nicely tucked in at the back of the drawer,
The red pen peacefully snores.

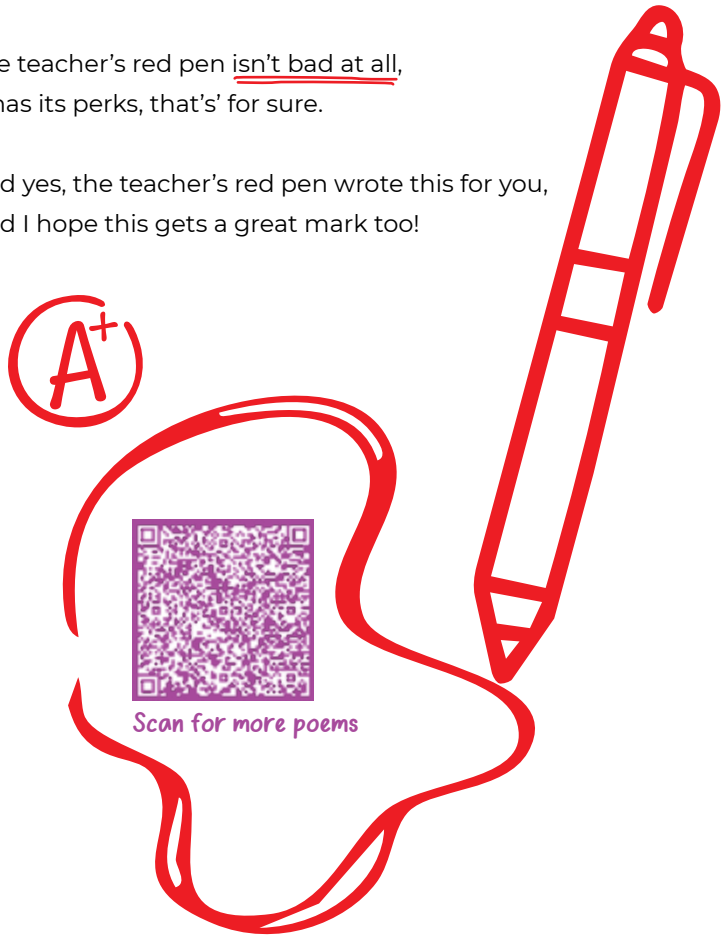
Feeling fresh and ready to face,
The students' most HORRENDOUS mistakes.
The red pen has a mind of its own,
It also has a side of it that can't be shown.

The red pen, trust me, can be nice,
Just not in front of children's sight.
It likes to be feared by all it sees,
Just enough to make children flee.

The teacher's red pen is the brains behind it all,
It probably has bruises, big and small,
From marking work to correcting flaws,
The teacher's read pen has a tiresome job.

The teacher's red pen isn't bad at all,
It has its perks, that's' for sure.

And yes, the teacher's red pen wrote this for you,
And I hope this gets a great mark too!



WHEN THE SEA CRIES

By Ariana Chenia

When the Sea cries
the tides will rise.
It can destroy
peoples' homes like many hearts.

Its words are salty
while its waves
crash
against your shore.

When it's time for the day,
the emotions
hide away, no more cold
it's time to play.

Up comes the sun
the Sea fakes a grin,
never willing to show them
the depth
of the ocean.

Small waves
trampled
over the water again,
Let's take a swim.

But everyone knows
the warmth and the cold
never goes because after a while
the hurricane blows.

When the Sea cries
The tears still remain.
It stays
hidden
washed away.

Grade 7 Fair

Grade 7

Two Oceans Aquarium

Grade 7

House Plays

This year, the Grade 7s were challenged to take inspiration from the school's themes of "going from good to great" and "EMBRACE...D", with a focus on character growth and dynamic change.

Every aspect of the productions, from scripts to music, lighting, costumes, advertising, staging and rehearsals, was driven by the Grade 7s themselves with support from their teachers.

The evening was a celebration of nine months of hard work, collaboration and creativity. We are so proud of everything they delivered.

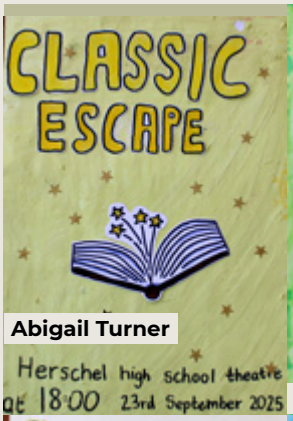
Mrs Alix Dawson-O'Connor and
Mrs Rachelle Pretorius

THE AWARD WINNERS:

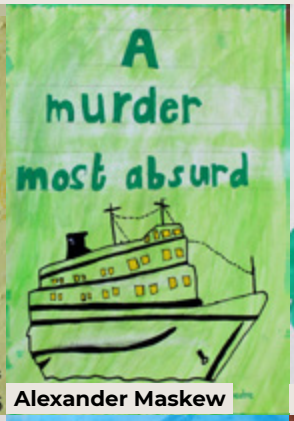
Best Musical Piece: Merriman
Best Individual Performance: Layla Toll
Best House Play: Carter
Crowd Favourite: Jagger

Grade 7

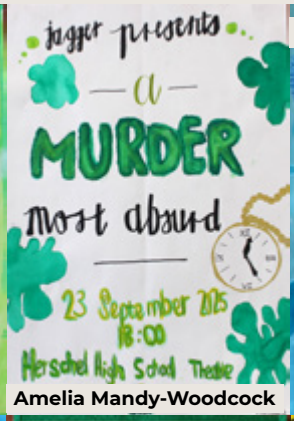
Camp High Africa



Abigail Turner

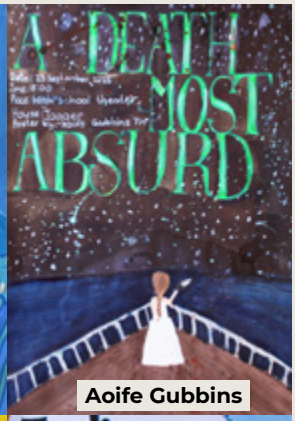


Alexander Maskew

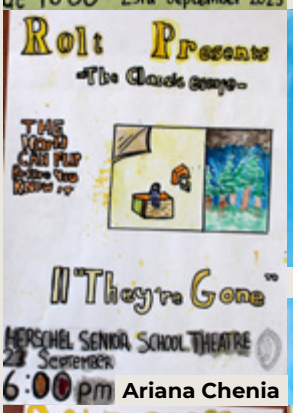


Amelia Mandy-Woodcock

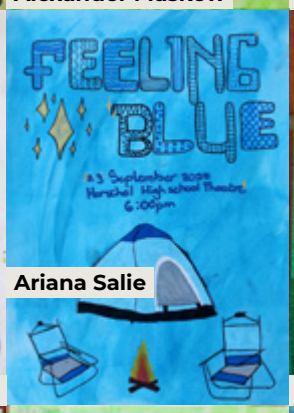
Amy Rich



Aoife Gubbins

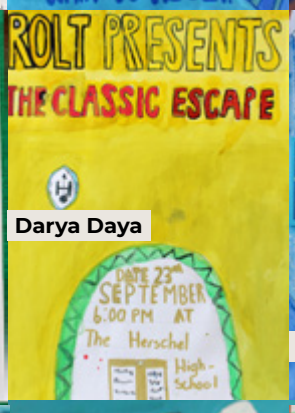


Ariana Chenia



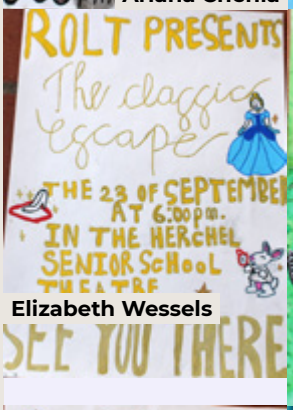
Ariana Salie

Caroline Rogers



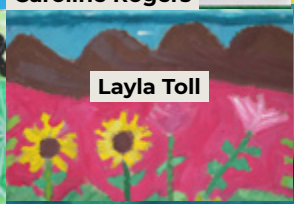
Darya Daya

Elizabeth Mason

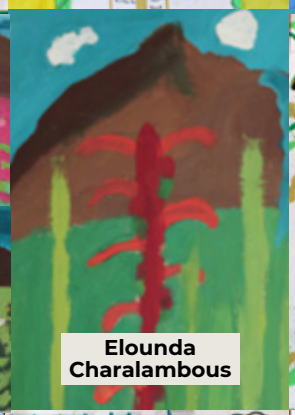


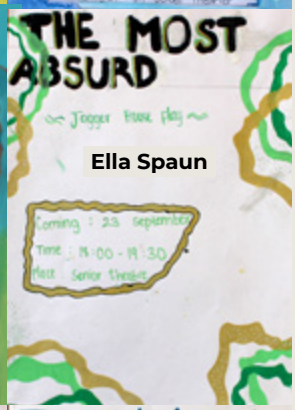
Elizabeth Wessels

Ella Duffus


Layla Toll

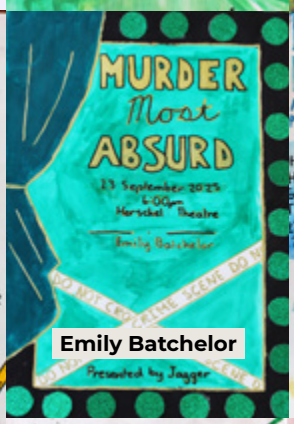
Farah Harneker


Elounda Charalambous



Ella Spaun

Emilia Fontana



Emily Batchelor

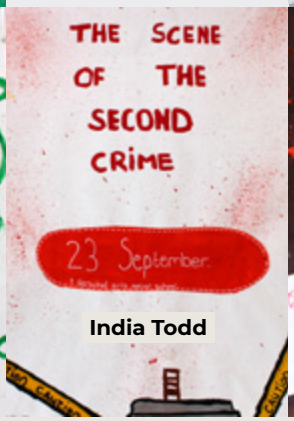
Emily Groenewald

Frankie Cowan

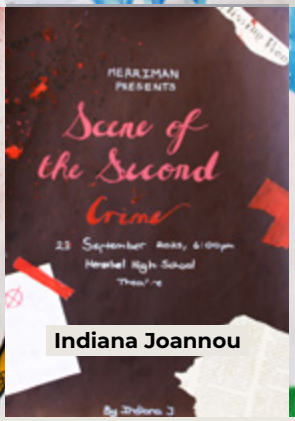
Hannah Marshall

Harper Duchenne

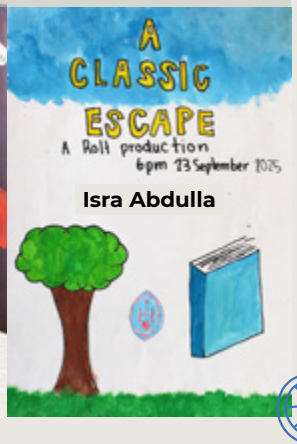
Harper O'Hagen



India Todd



Indiana Joannou

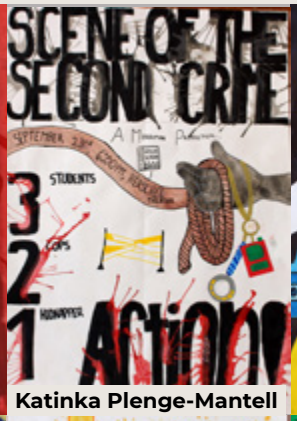


Isra Abdulla

PREP

GRADE 7

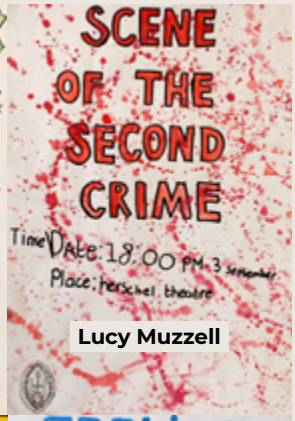
Jehaan Manuel



Katinka Plenge-Mantell

Lilah Gonsenhauser

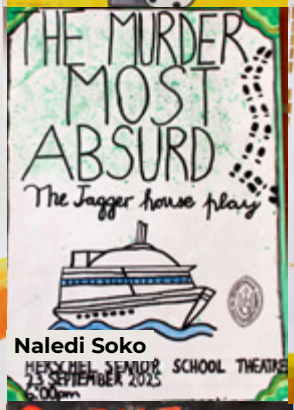
Lily-Mae Sickle



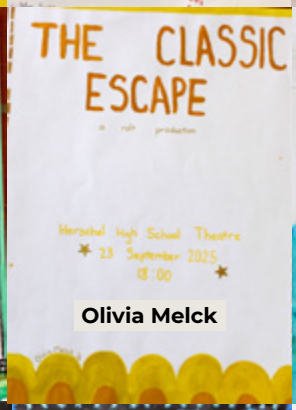
Lucy Muzzell

Megan Macdonald

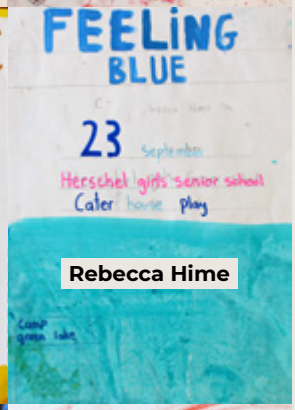
Mila-Belle Slatter



Naledi Soko



Olivia Melck



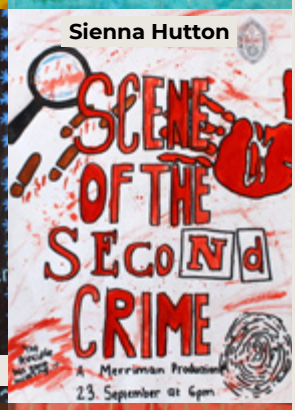
Rebecca Hime

Saika Mostafa

Samira Ebrahim

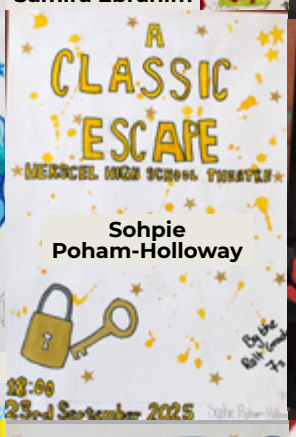
Sarah Gordan

Siba Adonis

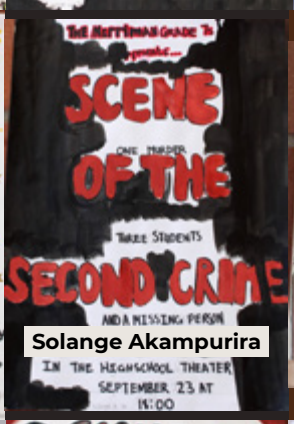


Sienna Hutton

Sky Eyssen

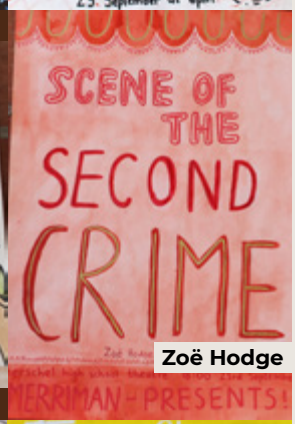


Sohpie Poham-Holloway



Solange Akampurira

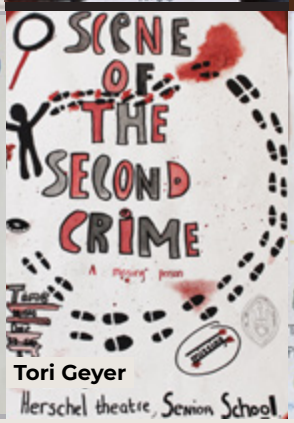
Sophia Gullan



Zoë Hodge

Taaliah Abdulla

Taylor Ross



Tori Geyer

Zara Scholtz

Zaynah Desai

100 Jaar van Afrikaans

GRAAD 3

PREP

INSPIRE, IMAGINE, CREATE

GRAAD 4

My Droom Partytjie!

My tiende partytjie
Ek sal 'n partytjie hou. Ons gaan op 25 Februarie na Dubai en kom terug op die 27 Februarie en die partytjie is op die 26 Februarie. Dit is van twee-uur tot vieruur. Daar is aktiwiteite soos Marko en Polo en wegkruipertjie. Ons sal gaan op die gly. Ons sal pizza, pasta, vegetariër en vleis eet en koeldrank drink in die waterpark. Al die familie is genooi soos my niggie, tannie, en ma en pa. Dit is my droom partytjie want dit sal pret wees. Moenie vergeet nie, die tema is waterpark. Jy moet jou swembroek en handdoek bring. Ek hoop om jou te sien.
Nabila Gafoor

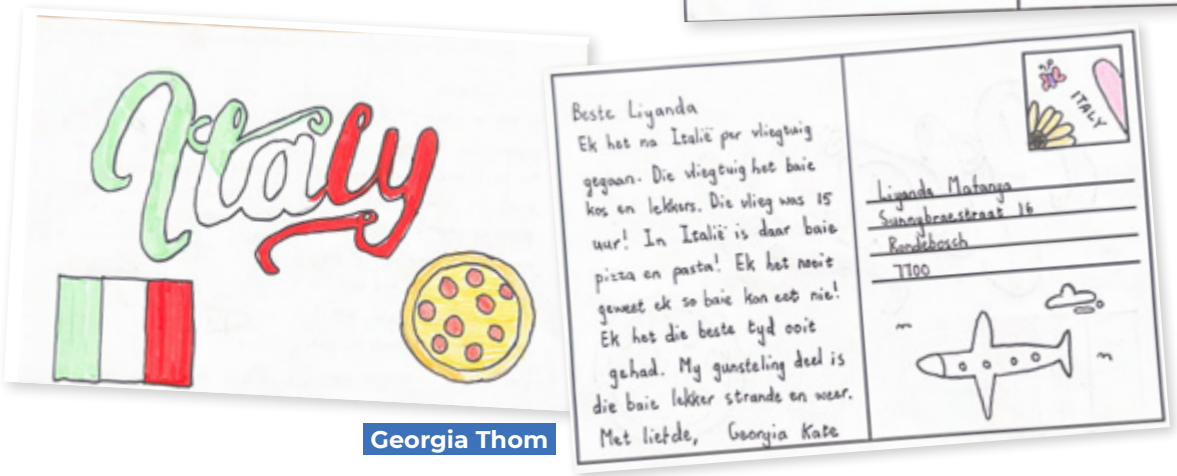
Dit is 'n perde tema strand-partytjie. Die partytjie is op die strand. Ek nooi my hele familie. Ons eet pannekoek met sjokolade sous, vrugte en ons drink tropiese drankies. Ons sal perdry op die strand en ons sal met dolfyne swem. Ek hou van perdry, dolfyne en mini golf. Dit is op Saterdag van sewe-uur tot vyfuur in Mauritius.
Amelie Graef

My Droom Partytjie is wonderlik! Die teme van my Droom Partytjie is Kuromi. Ons sal 'n doek verf wat een meter lank is altesaam een meter breed. Dit sal by na die 'Art Jamming' plek. Daar sal by 'n roomys koek tien meters lank en die teme van die koek is Kuromi. Salish Matter sal by daar. Jorden Matter sal by daar. Tyla sal by daar. My familie en vriende sal by daar. Dit is my Droom Partytjie!!
Deeyana Kader

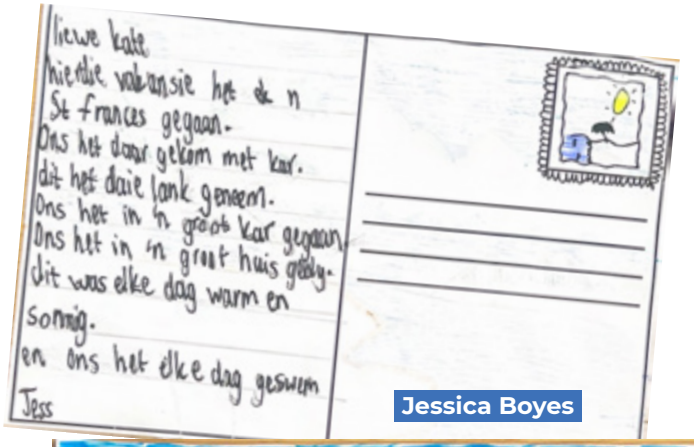
Maldive Avontuur

My droom partytjie is 'n Maldive avontuur. Dit is op die 17 Maart en ons sal die Maldive toe gaan. Ons sal Skubaduik aan 'n seegrot, verken en vind skat, dan gaan soek troeteldier dolfyne. Jou dolfyn sal jou gunsteling kleur glooi wanneer jy by na dit swem. Ek sal jou nooi Emma, Eva, Lily, E, Jules, T en W, Helen, Annabele B en Amelie. Ons sal baie koeldrankies en 'n baie groot sjokolade koek eet. Ons sal swem in die see. Ons sal op die 20 Maart gaan. Dit is my droom partytjie omdat ek is baie lief vir die Maldives en dolfyne, en ek hou van avonture!
Arabella Saunders

GRAAD 5 POSKAARTE

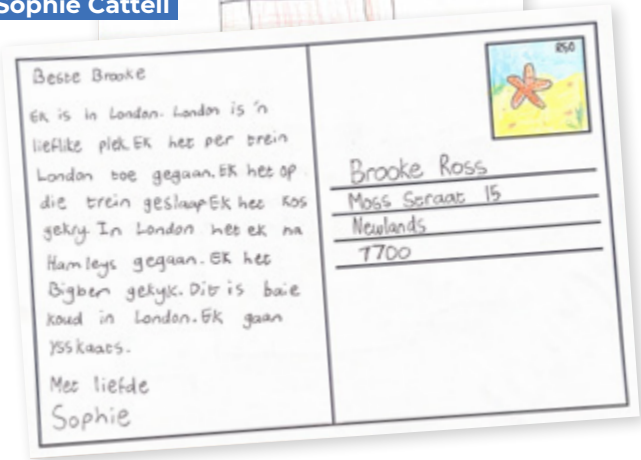


GRAAD 6
MY GUNSTELING SPORT


Liewe kate
hierdie vakansie het ek n
St frances gegaan.
Ons het daar gekom met kar.
dit het daie lank geneem.
Ons het in 'n groot kar gegaan
Ons het in 'n groot huis gebly.
dit was elke dag warm en
sonnig.
en ons het elke dag geswem
Jess

Jessica Boyes

Sophie Cattell


Beste Brooke
Ek is in London. London is 'n
lieflike plek. Ek het per trein
London toe gegaan. Ek het op
die trein geslaap Ek hee kos
gekry. In London hee ek na
Hamleys gegaan. Ek het
Bigben gekyk. Dit is baie
koud in London. Ek gaan
ysskaats.
Met liefde
Sophie
Brooke Ross
Moss Street 15
Newlands
7700

Ava Duff

PREP

INSPIRE, IMAGINE, CREATE

GRAAD 6
MY GUNSTELING SPORT

GRAAD 7
WIE MY INSPUREER...

Billie Eilish

Sy help my glo in my drome en reik vir die sterre. Sy maak my dink ek kan my drome volg en my doelwitte bereik. Baie mense is deur haar geïnspireer. Ek leer baie belangrike lesse van haar en ek is dankbaar vir wat sy doen en hoe sy met passie sing ten spyte van haar struikelblokke.

Lily-Mae Sickle

My ouers

Hulle inspireer my baie. Hulle is altyd gaaf en lief vir my en my susters. Hulle ondersteun ons gesin en maak alles altyd pret. Hulle inspireer my om my beste te doen. My ouers is altyd op my kant, en ek waardeer dit.

Sophie Popham-Holloway

Pretty

Pretty moedig my aan om my beste te doen. Sy het baie geduld en ek is dankbaar dat sy my leer om moeilike dinge te doen. Pretty is baie snaaks en dit maak my altyd lag. Sy is altyd bedrywig en vlugtig en maak seker dat die groep 'n goeie tyd het. Haar glimlag is aansteeklik! Ek is so gelukkig dat sy my perdry onderwyser is.

Amelia Mandy-Woodcock

My Ma

My ma is so inspirerend. In elke uitdaging is sy dapper. Sy doen alles vir my gesin en is altyd regverdig en vriendelik . Ek is dankbaar dat sy altyd daar is wanneer ek haar nodig het. My ma laat my glimlag in donderweer en in die reën. Sy sal altyd "My sonskyn" wees.

Amy Rich

Skandeer vir meer

Chasing the Mirage:

An Artist's Journey

We stand in the desert, empty and bare,
A place where ideas are hidden somewhere.
The page lies before us, blank as the sand,
Waiting for vision to take us in hand.

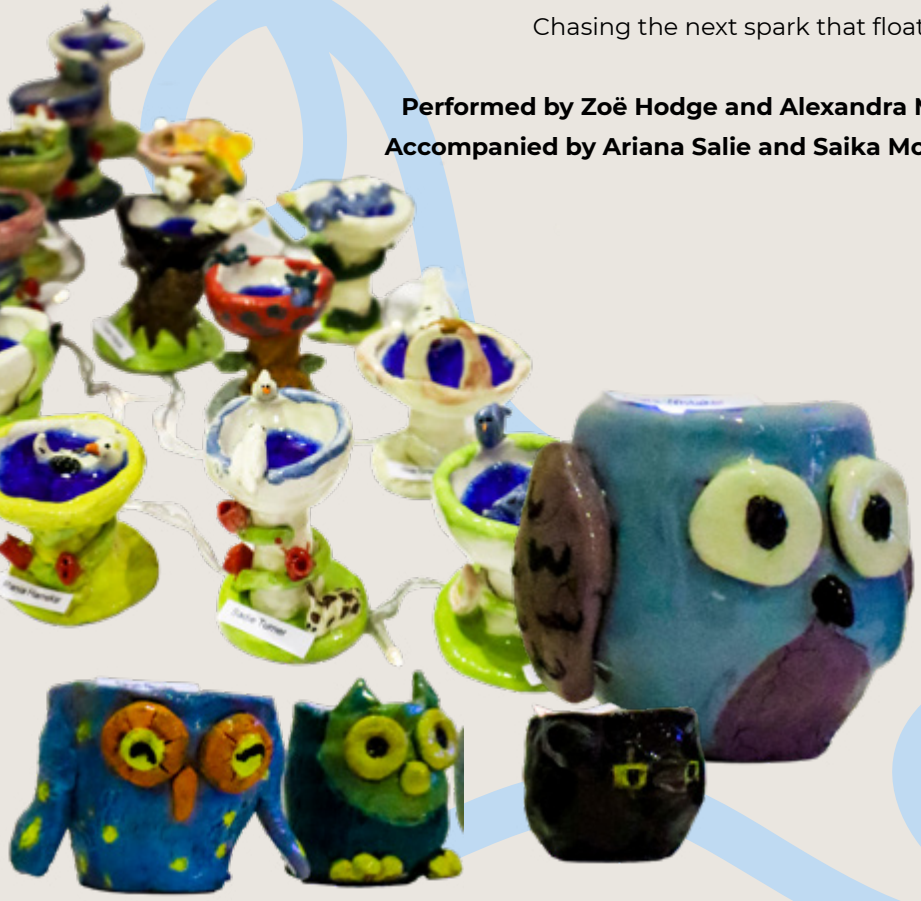
A mirage shimmers, a flicker, a sign,
The idea we seek feels almost divine.
We reach through the heat, we push through the haze,
Each step a battle, a test of our ways.

The hours feel endless, the struggle is real,
We question our skill, we question what we feel.
Yet still we press onward, we coax, we strive,
Each attempt bringing the vision alive.

And then – the mirage steadies, it blooms, it springs,
The oasis appears, the fountain it brings.
Colour and form burst alive in our hands,
With our imagination, at last, firmly stands.

Yet the desert remains, stretching far and clear,
Another mirage shimmers, another idea.
We set off once more, hearts ready to dare,
Chasing the next spark that floats in the air.

Performed by Zoë Hodge and Alexandra Maskew, Heads of Art
Accompanied by Ariana Salie and Saika Mostafa, Heads of Drama



"When we embrace others with kindness, we create the kind of world we all want to live in."

"A community grows stronger every time we choose to embrace rather than overlook."

Community Engagement

The magic has certainly been alive at Herschel this year. Starting with our Grade 7 Fair, we raised the necessary funds to support many events and charities. Our girls and their families have truly shown what it means to embrace others – embracing kindness, embracing community, and embracing the chance to make a difference.

Thank you, Herschel, for the generosity, time, and wholehearted spirit you have poured into our fundraisers and Acts of Kindness.

The charities we supported together salute you. Through every contribution, you have embraced the needs of adults, children, and animals alike, offering care where it was needed most. Once again, you have gone the extra mile and shown what it means to lead with compassion. All your Acts Of Kindness have made a difference in the lives of so many people and animals around the country.

GRADE 4: SANDWICHES AND FRUIT FOR THE HAVEN SHELTER

"The smallest act of care becomes powerful when we embrace it together."

GRADE 5: CUPCAKES

GRADE 6: ACT OF KINDNESS – BEACH CLEAN UP

GRADE 7: HOSTING GLENBRIDGE SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL

MANDELA DAY HUG IN MUG

Computers

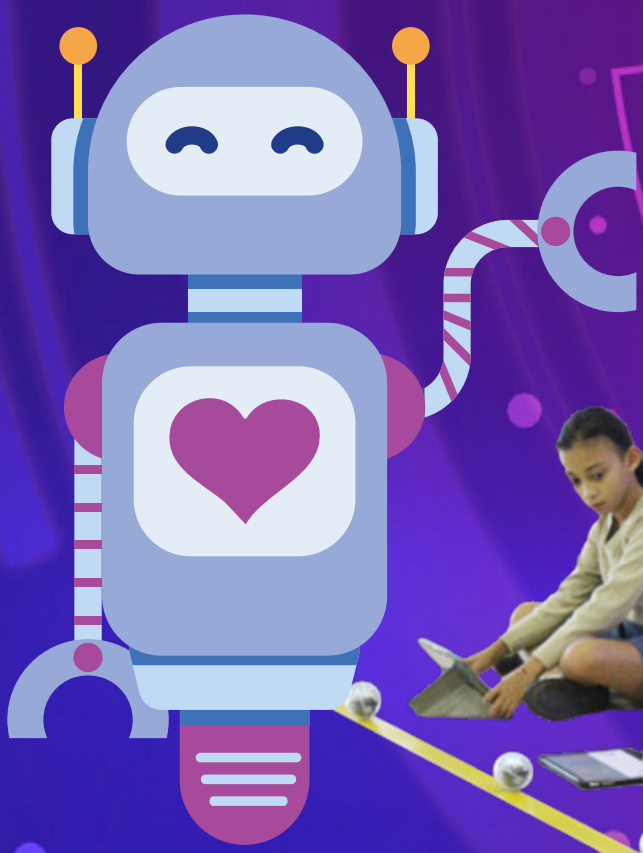
This year has been full of exciting new experiences, challenges, and lots of learning! From using Sphero Balls to exploring the digital world safely and creatively, our school ICT department has been buzzing with curiosity and teamwork.

Coding is an important part our our ICT curriculum and one of the biggest highlights was learning with Sphero Balls and Indi Cars. Robotics is always a fun and exciting way to learn about coding and to stimulate thinking processes. The girls got hands-on by programming the small robotic spheres to roll, light up, and even navigate obstacle courses. The Grade R's and Foundation Phase girls played games and problem solved using Indi Cars and colours to learn about direction, angles and speed. It was amazing to see everyone experiment with various commands, problem-solve when things didn't go as planned, and celebrate when their Sphero completed the course perfectly. We discovered that learning about technology can be both fun and full of creativity.

We also spent time learning about Digital Citizenship – how to use the internet safely, kindly, and responsibly. Through fun activities and discussions, we learned how to protect our privacy online, think before we post, and use technology to make a positive difference.

Another big focus this year was Digital Literacy. We practiced using technology to research, create, and share our ideas in new ways. Whether it was coding, experimenting with multi media presentations, or designing projects, we built the skills we'll need in the digital world – all while having fun and learning together.

Looking back, this year has been all about growing, exploring, and trying new things. We've learned that being curious, creative, and connected helps us become better learners.

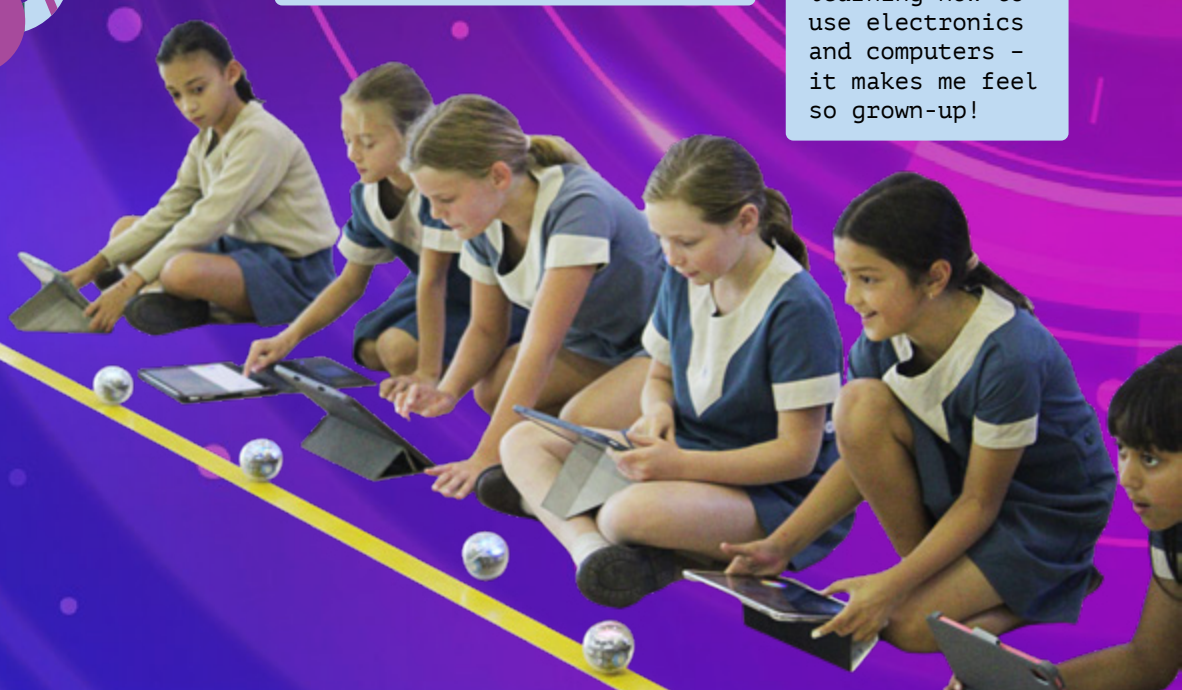


Amy Harcourt-Wood: I like how Mrs van Eyssen lets us do fun puzzles - they're tricky but satisfying!

Aahana Dunsdon: I like learning coding - the games are so much fun, and I feel like a real programmer!

Reign Rowan: I love how we get to control the Sphero balls with the iPads - it feels like real magic!

Sienna van Staden: I enjoy learning how to use electronics and computers - it makes me feel so grown-up!



Herschel Debating

Debating at Herschel experienced remarkable growth this year, with many girls honing their oratory and critical thinking skills. Under the expert guidance of Tiger-Anne Cupido, members benefited from weekly coaching sessions that strengthened their confidence and technique. Two Herschel teams represented the school in the National Debating League, competing in a series of events hosted at schools across the Peninsula. Special recognition is extended to Hannah Galatis for being awarded the Debating Trophy. Congratulations to all members of the Debating Club for their dedication, courage, and impressive development throughout the year.

HEADS OF DRAMA: ARIANA SALIE AND SAIKA MOSTAFA

Drama

By Mrs Alix Dawson-O'Connor

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." – George Bernard Shaw, Irish Playwright

Drama is like opening the door to a world of imagination, where every lesson is an adventure and every student can become anyone, a queen, a creature, or even a cloud! Through play and performance, we learn to speak with confidence, think on their feet, and work together. We develop empathy by stepping into different shoes (sometimes quite literally!) and learn that mistakes are simply part of the magic of storytelling. Drama doesn't just teach lines and roles, it teaches courage, creativity, and the joy of being boldly, brilliantly yourself.

Drama Society

By Mrs Alix Dawson-O'Connor

"The arts make a bridge across this world in ways that nothing else can."
– Julie Andrews, Actress

The Drama Society was established to give our girls the opportunity to perform beyond the classroom and explore their creativity in a supportive, inspiring environment. Through the society, girls could build confidence, develop their performance skills, and discover a genuine passion for theatre. It provides a space where girls can express themselves freely, collaborate across grades, and experience the joy of storytelling on stage – all while nurturing a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

Eco Club

Family Groups

General Knowledge

Girls from Grade 4 to 7 complete a General Knowledge quiz each week and General Knowledge Champs in each class are announced at the end of each term in assembly. Questions in these weekly quizzes cover a variety of topics including current affairs, history, geography, biology, sport, literature etc. This year we have also included quizzes to cover topical themes like Africa Day and Influential Women.

Girls in Grade 6 and 7 volunteer to be a part of the General Knowledge team. They write a short General Knowledge test and are selected based on their results for this test. This team participates in the Interschool General Knowledge Quiz. Our team this year was made up of the following girls – Emily Groenewald, Amelia Mandy-Woodcock, Indiana Joannou, Fatimah Ismail, Hannah Galatis and Maya Hansen. These girls acquitted themselves very well in the challenging first two rounds of the quiz, but unfortunately did not finish in the top 8 schools and, therefore, missed out on participating in the final round.

Grandparents' Day

We celebrated Foundation Phase Grandparents' Day on Tuesday 23 September.

We started the morning with the girls paying tribute to their grandparents and the role they play in their lives, through songs, poems, readings and a short play. This was followed by a picnic, even though the day brought rain this did not stop the festivities and the treats.
We celebrate Grandparents' Day as close to Heritage Day as possible, to recognise the important role grandparents play in preserving and passing down family and cultural traditions. Heritage Day reminds us of the value of our diverse cultures and our grandparents are a vital part of this living heritage. By linking the two celebrations, we honour both our national heritage and the special people who keep it alive within our families. They are the ones who share stories, traditions, religion, recipes, songs and family history with us.

Library

Young readers, when you enter a library, you are entering a construction site.

When you open a book... when you read... it is not just a story, but a beam of steel, a block of brick, or a splash of vibrant paint, added to the structure of your intelligence. Every new fact you discover is a new wing on your mental building, and every character you meet becomes a load-bearing column of empathy. So, get to work!

Be adventurous in your designs, select your materials wisely, and don't be afraid to build up, down, and out. Your brain is a skyscraper under construction, and with every page, you are building something truly spectacular.

WARNING

People who read learn to think for themselves.
– Kundiso Runyowa

People who read always find something to be happy about.
– Holly Clarke

"People who read grow smarter all the time."
– Abbey Naidoo

People who read have way more fun than those that don't read. – Abigail Lange

Reading inspires a person to want to do new things.
– Jessica Baker

People who read can never stop because you get hungry for more.
– Charlotte Caldicott

Music

MUSIC MORNING AND MEANDER

What could be better than spending a beautiful autumn day in Cape Town – warm sun and no wind – with a Music Morning and Meander!

Our Prep music girls spent the whole Saturday morning rehearsing new music in various venues across the Herschel campus and working on an art project that reflected the music-and-meander theme. At lunch time everyone relaxed with a picnic outside under the plane trees. After the picnic, parents, friends and staff joined us for an informal Musical Meander Concert which started with the Prep Band at the Inkwenkwezi Music Centre, followed by everyone meandering up to the Prep Studio for marimba performances and on to the final destination, the Prep Hall, to listen to the Orchestra, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir perform music that they had learnt.

HERSCHEL-SACS: BETTER TOGETHER

Another one of the highlights of our musical year in the Herschel Prep Music Department was our wonderful Herschel-SACS concert, Better Together, held in the Sports Centre in June. Bathed in beautiful lights and supported by excellent sound technology, our girls joined 150 boys from SACS Junior on stage with polished and spirited performances, ending on a high note with 'A Tribute to Miriam Makeba' which had the audience cheering for more.

Scan the QR code for a video that captures the vibrance of this wonderful evening.

Better Together

CAROL SERVICE

The Herschel Prep Carol Service was a very fitting end to this musically rewarding year with all of our girls blessing us and each other in singing joyful Advent and Christmas music together, accompanied by our lovely orchestra. The orchestra was expanded to include some of the guitar girls and an impressive percussion section for this occasion. It was also very special to have many of our Music staff joining the pupils in the orchestra in playing traditional congregational carols. The Senior Choir moved everyone with their beautiful rendition of 'Thankful' by Josh Groban, while the Junior Choir sang their hearts out with 'Like a Candle Flame'.

The evening ended on a festive note with the combined marimba ensembles playing fun Christmas songs as many parents took a moment to appreciate some of the art works that were on display.

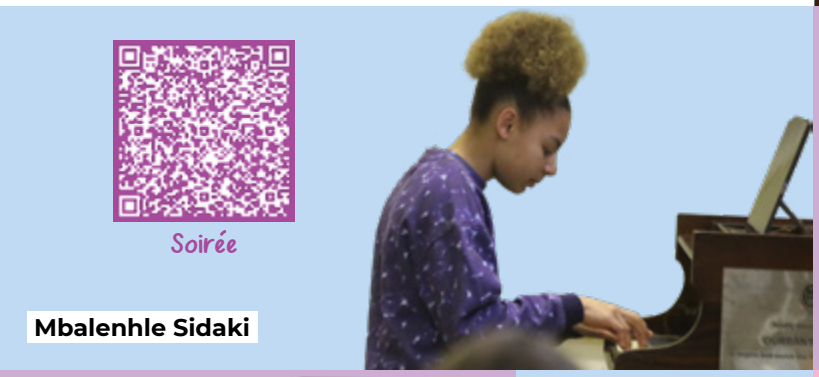
SOIRÉE

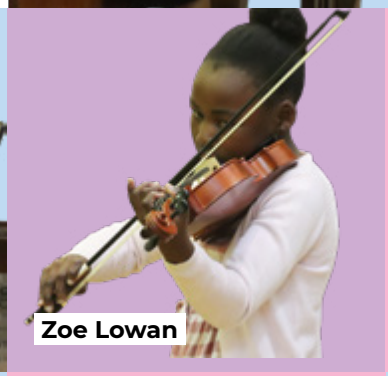
With our Herschel Prep Soirée we celebrated the individual at Herschel and how they have embraced all the other C-words (connection, curiosity, creativity, communication) in their own very special musical journey. This year the Soirée was hosted in the elegant Mary Jagger Hall with its beautiful refurbished grand piano. Friends, family and staff enjoyed refreshments in the foyer before being treated to a carefully curated programme that included a variety of music genres and performances of a very high standard.

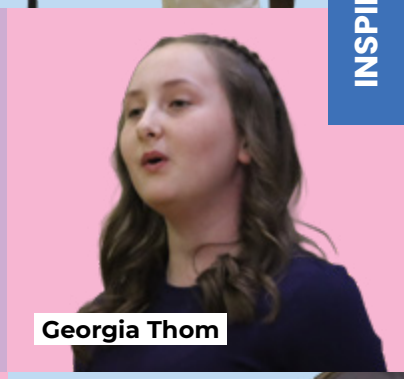
Scan the QR code to enjoy the lovely video of our performers.

Fatimah Ismail

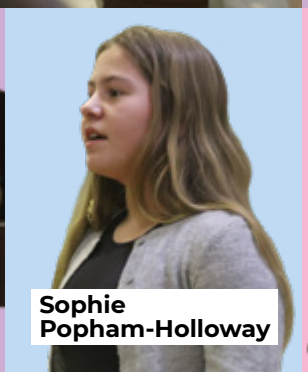
Soirée

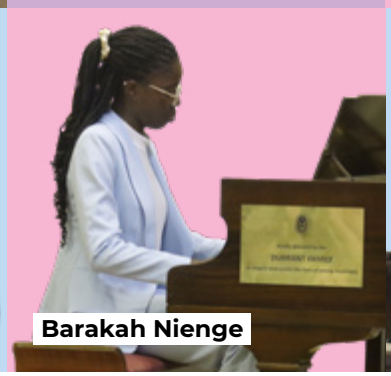

Mbalenhle Sidaki

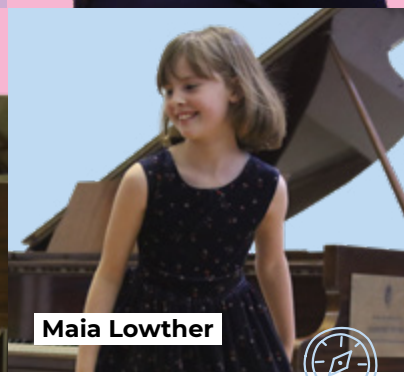

Zoe Lowan


Georgia Thom

Nina West


Sophie Popham-Holloway


Barakah Nienge


Maia Lowther

ACHIEVERS

In between all the fun, our Music girls have also worked very hard and achieved excellent results. Many girls entered and completed Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) examinations, Trinity College (London) examinations, as well as Herschel Internal Practical and Theory examinations. They also took part in various eisteddfodau and local music competitions, expanding their horisons and taking on new challenges.

One of these new ventures was an entry into the Collaborative section of the Western Cape Piano Festival Competition. Our Grade 4 trio, Skylar Akampurira, Elimyoli Cossie and Deeyana Kader performed an elegant Minuet and Trio by Mozart which had the audience cheering wildly with appreciation as they finished. They who won the overall prize for Best Junior Chamber Music Performance.

We are also very pleased with all our pupils who excelled in the Kaapse Afrikaanse Eisteddfod, the largest local music eisteddfod. We were especially proud of our Senior Orchestra and Recorder Ensemble who were awarded Gold medals as category winners! It was a very special honour for Nina West to be invited to perform at the Prestige Evening which was held in October, accompanied on the piano by her sister, Zoë West, who had also won a medal in the Senior Piano section. The following girls were awarded medals for their solo performances:

- **Nina West** – Silver medal: Singing, Musical Theatre, Grade 5 Girls.
- **Indianna Joannou** – Silver medal: Drum Kit, Junior section
- **Emily Groenewald** – Silver medal: Singing, Folk Song, Grade 7 Girls
- **Emily Batchelor** – Silver medal: Drum Kit and Percussion, as well as the Gold medal for Best Junior School Drum Kit and Percussion overall
- **Herschel Prep Recorder Ensemble:** Gold medal for Best Large Recorder Ensemble Primary Schools.
- **Herschel Prep Senior Orchestra:** Gold medal for Best Primary School Orchestra.

FOUNDATION PHASE EVENING OF MUSIC

We were treated to a wonderful Evening of Music as our beginner groups, the Vibey Violins, Cheeky Cellos, Young Ukuleles and Rumble Jumble Recorders showed off their new instruments. Our well-established StringAlong ensemble performed their eisteddfod work, The Sea Shanty Suite, while the Grade 2 recorder girls played one of their ensemble pieces, 'Over the Sea to Sky'. The Junior Choir opened the programme with a programme of songs ranging from 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' to 'Pick a Pocket' (from *Oliver*). The evening was concluded with two combined songs, 'Do a Deer' (from *The Sound of Music*) and 'It's a Hap-hap-happy Day'.

The Junior Choir

The Junior Choir had great fun singing rounds like 'Umzi Watcha', to simple harmony in learning 'Pizza!'. Performing highlights this year included singing in Music Assembly, Grandparents' Day and the Foundation Phase Concert. We ended our musical year singing 'Like a Candle Flame' at the Christmas Carol service, as well as the beautiful descant to 'Our Gift to You'.

StringAlong and the Recorder Ensemble

The StringAlong girls enjoyed learning three movements from *The Sea Shanty Suite*: 'Shark Attack!', 'Barrier Reef' and 'Cap'n Jack's Hornpipe'.
This was recorded and submitted online to the Kaapse Afrikaanse Eisteddfod and they were very proud to have been awarded Honours for their performance.

The Recorder girls in Grades 2 and 4 collaborated to form a recorder ensemble this year and they enjoyed putting together two two-part works, 'Pokare Kare' and 'Over the Sea to Skye' which were performed at the Kaapse Afrikaanse Eisteddfod, as well as at Music Assembly.

INTERSEN PHASE MUSIC

Intermediate Phase Evening of Music

Watch videos

This year, the IP Evening of Music took vibrance to the next level with the Prep Band, Rock Candy, accompanying the Senior choir and choir girls performing acrobatics on stage – while singing!

The Marimba Concert Bands played songs varying from 'Siyahamba' to 'Mystical Magical' and they were joined by Ms Carin Donson on a humorous French Horn. The Senior Orchestra presented a lovely programme which included an African medley, a Disney medley and 'Butter'. Our Senior Choir entertained everyone with a witty rendition of 'One Minute Madrigal', our much-loved 'Better Together' and the daring 'A Friend like Me'. In between, the guitar ensemble had everyone relaxing for a brief while to 'Summer Tango' and 'Cool Cat', before Rock Candy took over and had everyone cheering wildly. The concluding combined Prep Band and Senior Choir item, 'Larger than Life', really ended the concert on a high note.

Natural Science and Technology

HOT CHOCOLATE

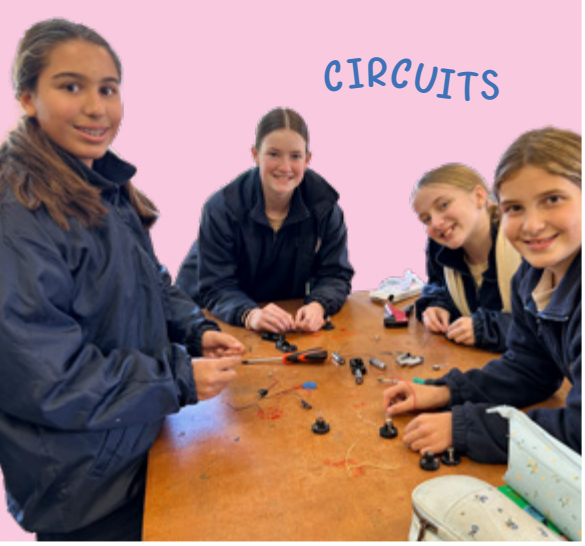
MAKING INSTRUMENTS

BAKING

CACAO
INVESTIGATION

ELASTIC
AND
RULER

ELASTIC
VEHICLE



PREP

INSPIRE, IMAGINE, CREATE

Panorama Day

Linda Cowie

The Grade 6 and 7 girls enjoyed a fun day doing a variety of crafts and activities such as tie dye a T-shirt, takkie painting, mosaic mirrors, a Zumba class, flowerpot dessert, biscuit icing, calligraphy and gaming.

THE GIRLS COULD CHOOSE TWO ACTIVITIES AND SOME COMMENTS WERE:

*"During Panorama Day, I participated in flowerpot dessert and tie-dye. I really enjoyed both activities. The day was an amazing experience." – **Amelia Mandy-Woodcock***

*"Panorama Day was really fun. It was the perfect mix of fun and creativity while it gave you time to socialise with friends. Best day ever." – **Mbalenhle Sidaki***

*"Panorama Day was such a fun experience because of the cool activities. My favourite was the mosaic mirror, and the teacher was really nice." – **Zayb Moose***

*"Panorama Day was so much fun because we got to learn new skills that you wouldn't learn in your everyday life." – **Haniyya Bhorey***

*"I enjoyed Panorama Day so much because the activities were very interesting and the flowerpot dessert was delicious." – **Emily Batchelor***

*"It was so much fun because I loved making the flowerpot dessert with my friends and it was really cool playing the different gaming challenges." – **Amy Rich***

"Xhosa this year has been so much fun! Titshalakazi always makes the lessons so special. The Xhosa tests this year were challenging, but learning about the culture and the language has been cool. Titshalakazi makes all the different themes so unique. After 7 years with her, siza kukukhumbula Titshalakazi!"
– Amy Rich

"Xhosa lessons this year have been an important and interesting part of school. IsiXhosa provides a creative and dramatic outlet for students, with everyone enjoying our termly orals. We really enjoyed learning about the isiXhosa culture. IsiXhosa is an amazing opportunity for all students and we will definitely miss learning it next year. We all feel so privileged to be able to learn this beautiful language."
– Amelia Mandy-Woodcock

isiXhosa

"Xhosa has been really fun this year! From restaurant orals to working at the gas station Titshalakazi has always made lessons fun! This year in isiXhosa we went more in depth about verb links and the noun classes. We also learnt vocabulary for gas stations, restaurants, food and clothing. It was a very fun year! No matter what happened, good or bad, we always had our Xhosa teacher by our side. We will all use these skills we've learnt for the rest of our lives."
– Emily Groenewald

"I have really enjoyed our Xhosa lessons this year. We've learnt how to write, read and speak Xhosa. This year was great, there were a few hard moments but Titshalakazi always helped us through them. When we all leave for the senior school, it will be hard for us to say goodbye to our beloved lessons. But I'm sure from all the laughs we've had that everyone will remember our Grade 7 Xhosa class."
– Megan Macdonald

Carter

Scan for more

THIS YEAR HAS TRULY BEEN ONE TO REMEMBER FOR CARTER!

As House Heads, we couldn't be prouder of everything our house has achieved and the amazing spirit that every single member showed throughout the year. From the very beginning, Carter came together with energy, teamwork and pride. Whether it was making songs, chants and posters or leading our house to victory, everyone gave it their all and made every moment count. Winning both Sports Day and the House Plays were huge highlights for us, and they proved just how hardworking, talented and dedicated Carter really is. But even more than the wins, what made this year special were the laughs, memories and friendships we made along the way. We saw everyone step up, cheer each other on, and show what true Carter pride looks like. As House Heads, it was amazing to see how everyone supported one another and gave their best in every event. From start to finish, Carter showed strength, heart and determination. Thank you to every single person in Carter for bringing so much energy, spirit and fun to everything we did this year. We'll never forget it. Once Carter, always Carter!

Frankie and Siba, signing out.

Jagger

GOOO JAGGER!

Scan for more

AS THE HEADS OF JAGGER FOR 2025, WE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PROUDER OF OUR HOUSE!

We absolutely loved leading Jagger through all the inter-house events and have really enjoyed working with everyone. Although Jagger may not be the sportiest house, we still showed spirit, grit and determination through the sun at the Gala and the rain on Sports Day. Jagger girls support each other and try their best. House singing practices were a struggle for everyone, but our efforts were evident when we won the Spirit Cup with Merriman on Sports Day.

On the other hand, Jagger excelled on the cultural side of things. The house dance on Sports Day was enjoyed by everyone, spectators and participants alike. The tiring process was definitely worth the final product. We are so proud of our grade sevens for their hard work leading up to the night of the House Plays. We would like to give a special mention to Layla Toll, who won best actress and entertained the audience with her hilarious performance. We are really happy to have won the crowd favourite.

We are grateful to have been Jagger House Heads this year and are so proud of our house for all their hard work and effort.

Emily and Amelia, signing out.

Scan for more

Merriman

THIS YEAR AS MERRIMAN HEADS HAS BEEN AN EXCITING AND JOYFUL JOURNEY WE'LL NEVER FORGET.

The day we got chosen at Leadership Day, we knew that it wasn't just about wearing a badge that said "HEAD"; it was about carrying Merriman with spirit, energy and kindness.

We've learned that true leadership isn't about standing in front but standing with others, cheering at every interhouse event as loud as we could, helping the younger grades with the words and encouraging everyone to give their all. Merriman has always been more than just a house; it's a team built on friendship, laughter and unstoppable spirit.

To our incredible Merriman girls: thank you for everything you've taught us this year. It wasn't easy in the beginning, but it got easier as the year went on. Every cheer, every chant, every smile made this year so special. We've learned that it's not the trophies that define us but the spirit and passion behind them. It's the spirit that binds us all together.

Let's not forget about the amazing Merriman house dance! It was incredible and each and every one of us helped to put that dance together. It may not have been perfect but it was definitely the most fun we've had in our whole Head career.

The house plays were an amazing experience; we learned so much about drama and acting. We are so proud of the Merriman Grade 7 group for putting all their effort into learning their lines, cues and song. It was truly cinematic!

Being a Merriman Head has taught us so much about responsibility, respect, ownership and most importantly about having fun and learning new things throughout this year of Grade 7 interhouse events.

We have truly enjoyed and loved every bit of it.
Lucy and Tori, signing out.

Rolt

Scan for more

GOOO ROLT!

THIS YEAR AS ROLT HEADS HAS BEEN AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY FILLED WITH JOY AND PRIDE.

From the moment we were chosen on Leadership Day, we knew it wasn't just about wearing a badge, it was about leading Rolt with spirit, energy and kindness.

For us, Rolt wasn't just a house, it felt like a place where everyone could belong. What stood out most was how we supported each other, not only when things went well but also when they didn't go our way. It didn't matter who scored the points or who won, everyone played a part in making Rolt stronger.

To every Rolt girl: Thank you for being the heart of this house. There were tough moments along the way but your energy, kindness and the way you showed up for each other made this year unforgettable. What makes Rolt special isn't medals or awards, it's the spirit, determination and love we've shared together.

Being Rolt Heads has taught us responsibility, respect and teamwork but most of all, how to have fun and make memories we'll never forget.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity, we loved every moment.

Zaynah and Harper, signing out.

Sport Festivals

Summer Sports Festival

TWILIGHT GALA

On Thursday, 20 February, Herschel welcomed eight schools to the annual Prep Summer Sports Festival Twilight Gala. The evening was filled with energy and enthusiasm as teams received loud cheers from their supporters. One of the most exciting moments of the event was the thrilling skins race, which had the crowd on the edge of their seats. Congratulations to the Herschel team for an outstanding performance, successfully defending their title and securing the trophy.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Summer Sports Festival Tennis Tournament featured five competing schools, with each match showcasing skill and determination. Many of the games were closely contested, adding to the excitement of the event. Congratulations to Oakhurst for finishing in first place, and well done to the Herschel Tennis team for securing second place in the tournament.

Watch video

WATER POLO

This year's Water Polo Festival spanned two days, accommodating a total of 41 teams from the U10 to U13 age groups. The festival format encouraged team development and participation, allowing players to grow and refine their skills throughout multiple matches. It was wonderful to see players from various schools coming together to compete and enjoy the sport in a supportive environment.

Winter Sports Festival

DAY/NIGHT NETBALL FEST

The Herschel Winter Sports Festival once again shone brightly on the Netball calendar. The Day/Night event unfolded in a vibrant, electric atmosphere, with fast-paced matches taking place across all four astro courts. With 28 teams and more than 250 talented players involved, the afternoon and evening were filled with energy, teamwork, and outstanding netball.

Saturday morning featured the U12 and U13 B and C Team Festival, where teams from various schools joined us for a fun, development-focused morning of play and connection.

Watch video

U9 HOCKEY FESTIVAL & U11 TWILIGHT HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Saturday saw Herschel host 24 U9 hockey teams for our annual festival, a celebration of emerging talent and the pure enjoyment of the game. The spirit of sportsmanship was evident throughout the morning as young players from multiple schools took to the field with enthusiasm and pride.

Later in the day, the Herschel U11 Twilight Hockey Tournament kept the excitement going, featuring ten teams in an action-packed afternoon and evening of competition. Our Herschel girls rose to the occasion, delivering excellent hockey, earning a spot in the final, and proudly finishing 2nd overall.

Prep Sport Tours

ALL GIRLS FESTIVAL

The All Girls Festival, hosted this year by St Peter's, saw 28 of our Hockey, Netball and Tennis players take to the courts and fields. It was a valuable pre-season test for our Hockey and Netball teams, who produced a range of competitive results, while our Tennis girls closed off their summer season with some excellent performances. The tour wasn't only about sport – the activities and shared time together helped the girls forge new friendships and strengthen team spirit.

Saints

HERSCHEL TAKES GOLD AT THE JUNIOR SAINTS WATER POLO INVITATIONAL

We were thrilled to celebrate our U13A Water Polo team on their outstanding performance at the Junior Saints Invitational. Competing against 16 top teams from across the country, our girls showcased skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the tournament.

They went undefeated in their pool games and powered through the quarter- and semi-finals to earn a well-deserved place in the final – and emerged as champions! Winning such a prestigious tournament is a tremendous accomplishment. We are incredibly proud of the team and their coaches for bringing home the gold medals.

Even more special was gaining the support of so many other schools in the final due to their sportsmanship.

KINGSWOOD WATER POLO TOUR

What an incredible tour for our Prep Water Polo girls! Thirty-three players and six staff members headed to the annual Kingswood Water Polo Festival, where Herschel entered three teams.

The girls faced it all – lightning storms, icy weather, and tough competition – but they never stopped smiling! Their grit, determination, and amazing team spirit shone through in every game. Each team grew stronger with every match and came away with fantastic results. We're so proud of the way they represented Herschel – with heart, energy, and camaraderie.

Kingswood Hawks

Kingswood Howlers

Kingswood Hurricanes

Saints

Saints

Saints

U9 Zonal Cross Country

U10 PGSGU Cross Country Team

U12 South Zone

Cross Country

CAPTAIN: REBECCA HIME

The Herschel Prep Cross Country team enjoyed an excellent season, with enthusiastic involvement from runners across the U8–U13 age groups. More than 70 girls took part in races throughout the term, supported by a committed core of about 30 regular weekly runners. Their dedication paid off, with 13 athletes earning selection for the South Zone team at the WP Cape Metro Cross Country Championships.

Our school calendar included the much-loved Grade 1–3 Fun Run, while the senior girls demonstrated impressive grit and speed in the Grade 4–7 Interhouse Cross Country. This event featured both the grade-level races and the fiercely contested competition race. A standout moment of the season was the PGSGU Interschool Meet, where Herschel secured 3rd place overall and claimed victory in the U10 age group.

We are immensely proud of every runner who represented Herschel each week, as well as those who achieved exceptional individual milestones.

"Cross country was so much fun . I loved running ever race. Running taught me to never give up and keep pushing."
– Rebecca Hime

U13 South Zone

Emma Logan

Amelia Golding

Emma Daniel

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Amelia Golding (1st U9 Cape Metro Champs, 4th Western Cape Champs)
- Emma Daniel, Kate Thomas, Allessandra van Staden and Talia Parker (U10 South Zone)
- Brooke Ross and Katherine Morrissey (U11 South Zone)
- Emma Logan and Sophia Hart (U12 South Zone)
- Rebecca Hime, Taylor Ross and Mila-Belle Slatter (U13 South Zone)
- Emma Daniel – 3rd PGSGU U10 Cross Country
- Emma Logan – 2nd PGSGU U12 Cross Country

U10 South Zone

U11 PGSGU Cross Country Team

U12 PGSGU Cross Country Team

U13 PGSGU Cross Country Team

*"Cross country has taught me never to give up because after some of those races I really wanted to give up. One of my favourite memories was when me and Becca ran the zonal race and got ice-cream after." – **Taylor Ross***

EVENTS

- Weekly races
- Grade 1 – 3 Fun Cross Country Race
- Grade 4 – 7 Interhouse Cross Country Race
- PGSGU Cross Country
  - Herschel 3rd Overall
  - U10 – 1st Place
  - U12 – 2nd Place

*"This sport has taught me to pull through, and push yourself to your limits. When I get on the cross country track, it forces me to be my absolute best, and be the best version of myself." – **Katinka Plenge-Mantell***

*"Cross country has taught me perseverance – especially on days when the course feels extra long. I love the feeling of finishing a race knowing I gave everything I could." – **Mila-Belle Slatter***

Hockey

CAPTAINS: MILA-BELLE SLATTER AND KATINKA PLENGE-MANTELL

Abigail Turner

WP Zonal U12A Hockey reps

WP Zonal U12B Hockey reps

"It was so fun like going to tournaments and talking with other schools."
– Jehan Manuel

Ella Spaun

Rebecca Hime

Hockey in 2025 was an exciting journey for the nearly 200 girls who took part. Their hard work at weekly practices and matches was evident in the growth shown across all teams. In addition to regular fixtures, every age group enjoyed a festival or tournament, further enriching their development. The girls' commitment, supported by the guidance of their coaches, resulted in strong progress and many standout moments throughout the season.

Farah Harnekar

Lucy Muzzell

Taylor Ross

Jehaan Manuel

KATINKA PLENGE-MANTELL

MILA-BELLE SLATTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Open A 1st @ PGSGU Interschool Hockey Tournament
- Open B 1st @ Kenridge Hockey tournament
- Open B 2nd @ PGSGU Interschool Hockey Tournament
- U12A 2nd @ Bishops Day/Night Tournament
- U11A 2nd @ Herschel Twilight Tournament
- Zonal Representatives:
  - Zonal U12A: Rafaella Milne and Zayb Moose
  - Zonal U12B: Erin Coffee, Barakah Nienge, Salma Sonday

U9

"Hockey has taught me how important teamwork and communication are on and off the field."
*– **Mila-Belle Slatter**, Captain*

U10A

"Hockey has meant so much more to me than just an extracurricular activity after school, but an escape from school and stress. It taught me teamwork, discipline and valuable leadership skills that I will carry throughout my life."
*– **Katinka Plenge-Mantell**, Captain*

EVENTS

- U9A Kirstenhof Festival, Herschel and Fish Hoek Festivals
- U9B, C, D: Herschel and Kenridge Festival
- U10A Rustenburg festival
- U10B, C, D, E Kenridge Festival
- U11A Herschel Twilight Tournament
- U11B, C Kenridge Festival
- U12A Bishops Day/Night Tournament
- **Open A:** All Girls Festival, Cape Co-Ed Cup, Kenridge, PGSGU Hockey tournament
- **Open B:** Kenridge Tournament, PGSGU Hockey tournament
- Open C & D Cannons Creek Festival

"Hockey has taught me to always keep going and to never give up on yourself because you never know what you can achieve if you don't put your mind to it."
*– **Farah Harnekar***

U10B

Open A

U11A

Open B

U12A

"Netball has taught me to believe in myself and my team. Netball means teamwork and dedication, but also something to enjoy with your friends."
*– **Lilah Gonsenhauser**, Captain*

CAPTAINS: EMILY GROENEWALD AND LILAH GONSENHAUSER

Gabriella De Vries

EMILY GROENEWALD

Elounda Charalambous

Netball

2025 was another exciting season of netball for the 160 girls participating. Girls got to play in a variety of tournaments and festivals.The enthusiasm and commitment of the girls and coaches ensured progress and growth with some excellent results.

Fatimah Ismail

Sienna Hutton

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2nd – U13A PGSGU Interschool Netball Tournament
- 3rd – U12A PGSGU Interschool Netball Tournament

Tori Geyer

Elizabeth Mason

Emma Logan

LILAH GONSENHAUSER

Sun Valley U10B

Carter Grade 5

"I love netball and I've loved playing it this year. My favourite memory was playing in the Herschel festival with my friends."
*– **Emily Batchelor***

EVENTS

- Herschel Winter Sport Festival Day/Night U10A – Open A team Netball Festival
- Herschel Winter Sport Festival U12 and Open B and C Team festival
- Kirstenhof U9A Netball Festival
- U10A and B Sun Valley Netball Festival
- Reddam U11A and B Netball Tournament
- U13A Sun Valley Netball Tournament
- Sun Valley, U9 and U10 B, C and D team Netball Festival
- U9A – U13A Fish Hoek Winter Sport Festival
- U13A and U12A PGSGU Interschool Netball Tournament

*"Netball has taught me confidence, leadership, resilience, and how much I can grow when I commit myself. My favourite memory is going from 2nd last in PGSGU in Grade 6 to 2nd in Grade 7, a moment that showed me how much this sport means to me and how it keeps pushing me to be better." – **Emily Groenewald**, Captain*

Jagger Grade 4

Merriman Grade 4

Sun Valley U10A

Rolt Grade 5

U8A

U9A

FP Gala

Swimming

CAPTAINS: SOPHIA GULLAN, TAYLOR ROSS (A TEAM CAPTAINS) AND OLIVIA MELCK (B TEAM CAPTAIN)

Another Exceptional Year for Herschel's Swimmers

The season began on a high note with the Grade 4–7 Interhouse Gala, a vibrant event that showcased the enthusiasm and talent of our swimmers, staff, and families. Rolt claimed the overall title, while Merriman earned the coveted Spirit Trophy, setting an exciting tone for the term.

Our A and B Teams, comprising more than 85 swimmers from U8 through to Open, demonstrated their skill and commitment at the Friday afternoon Galas. The team opened the competitive calendar with a strong victory at the Herschel Twilight Gala and continued to excel at the U10–Open PGSGU Interschool Gala, securing several trophies and successfully defending the PGSGU Interschool Swimming Trophy for 2025.

*"I learnt to be patient with myself and stay calm." – **Harper O'Hagan***

The Training Squad, open to all girls and focused on stroke refinement, technique, and endurance, continued to grow and thrive, with more than 80 enthusiastic participants training throughout the week.

The season concluded on another high as our team delivered a convincing overall win at the St Cyprian's Points Gala, where Herschel also claimed victories in the U8, U9, U11, U12, and U13 age groups. Overall, it was a swimming season marked by achievement, growth, and immense school pride.

Watch video

Open A Swimming Team

Mila-Belle Slatter

Sophia Gullan

U10A Swimming Team

U11 1st at PGSGSU

U11 Champs

U12A Swimming Team

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

U10

- 1st Mackenzie Abernethy
- 2nd Kate Thomas
- 3rd Azura Puglia

U11

- 1st Anna Taylor / Gia Yazdanpanahi
- 3rd Hanaa Hendricks

U12

- 1st Kristin Hundermark
- 2nd Erin Coffee
- 3rd Mbalenhle Sidaki /Zayb Moose

Open

- 1st Sophia Gullan
- 2nd Mila-Belle Slatter
- 3rd Harper O'Hagan
- Skye Eyssen – Most Improved Senior Swimmer
- Emily Duff – Most Improved Junior Swimmer

*"Swimming has taught me so much over the years, life lessons I will never forget... One of the most important lessons I have learned is to never give up and work hard, trust the process because if you work hard your progress will follow. "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.". Sport means friendship, success, hard work, dedication and much more." – **Sophia Gullan***

EVENTS

- Gr 4 – 7 Interhouse Gala
  - 1st – Rolt
  - Spirit Trophy – Merriman
- Herschel Twilight Gala – 1st
- PGSGU Interschool Gala – 1st
- St Cyprian's Points Gala – 1st
- Sophia Gullan – Level 3
- Sky Eyssen – Level 2

*"Swimming has taught me to have fun and that even if you lose a race your team will still support you no matter what. My favourite memory is when the Herschel team won the night gala." – **Olivia Melck***

U13 Champs

U12 Champs

Sky Eyssen – Most Improved Senior

Emily Duff – Most Improved Junior

U9A

U11A

U13B

U12A

U13A

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

WP U13A: Abigail Turner, Harper O'Hagan, Mila-Belle Slatter, Elounda Charalambous, Zayb Moose

WP U13B: Rebecca Hime, Letsatsi Termark

ABIGAIL TURNER

Mila-Belle Slatter

Elounda Charalambous

Water Polo

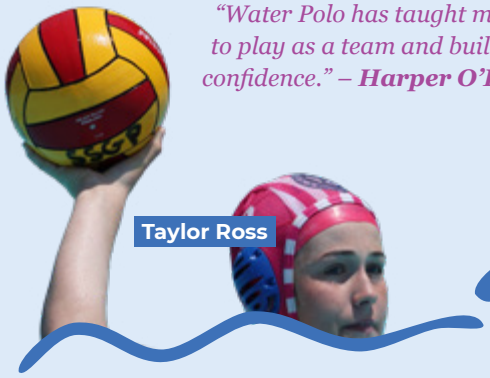
CAPTAINS: HARPER O'HAGAN AND ABIGAIL TURNER

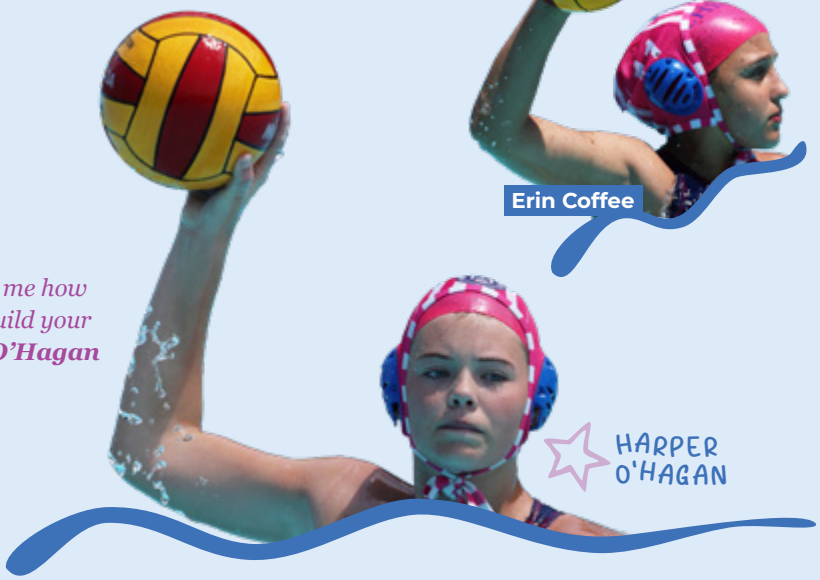
Herschel Prep School enjoyed a highly successful water polo season, with strong participation and excellent results. Over 100 girls competed across nine teams from U10 to U13, supported by a growing Splash Water Polo programme introducing Grade 3 girls to the sport. The highlight of the season was the U13A team winning the National Saints Invitational Junior Girls Tournament. Participation in festivals and tours further enriched a season defined by growth, teamwork, and achievement.

Elizabeth Mason

Erin Coffee

*"Water Polo has taught me how to play as a team and build your confidence." – **Harper O'Hagan***


Taylor Ross


HARPER O'HAGAN

EVENTS

- **U13A:**
  - 2nd League
  - 2nd WP U13 Serfontein Cup
  - 1st Reddam Action Polo Tournament
  - 2nd Mackenzie Cup
  - 1st SAINTS Junior Invitational Tournament
- Herschel Summer Sport Festival: U10A & B; U11A & B; U12A & B; U13A & B
- Wynberg U11 & U12 Water Polo Festival
- Kingswood Water Polo Festival 2 x teams
- Interhouse Water Polo – Jnr – Carter; Snr – Rolt; **Overall Winner:** Rolt

*"I have been lucky to have great coaches who really believed in me. This gave me the confidence to give of my best and be a good team player. It also gave me the chance to show leadership." – **Abigail Turner**, Captain*

Letsatsi Termark

PREP

SPORT

Francesca Cowan

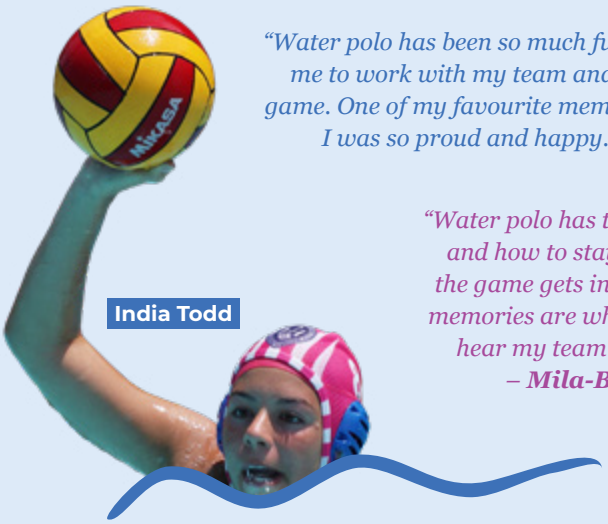
*"Water Polo has taught me teamwork and it has been so amazing playing with thus team this year." – **Elounda Charalambous***

Zayb Moose

*"Winning the Saints tournament with girls who are like my sisters was my favourite memory from this year. I made such special friendships in this team." – **Francesca Cowan***

Rebecca Hime

*"Water polo has been so much fun. Water polo has taught me to work with my team and to keep calm during a game. One of my favourite memories was winning saints I was so proud and happy." – **Rebecca Hime***



India Todd

*"Water polo has taught me confidence and how to stay tough even when the game gets intense. My favourite memories are when I take a shot and hear my team cheering for me." – **Mila-Belle Slatter***

*"Water Polo has taught me a lot of physical and mental skills." – **Elizabeth Mason***

Tennis

CAPTAINS: CAROLINE ROGERS AND SOPHIE POPHAM-HOLLOWAY

Herschel has enjoyed a successful tennis season this year with 5 teams entered in the Open league and 2 teams in the U11 league. Caroline Rogers, Emily Batchelor, Amy Rich and Hannah Galatis represented Herschel at the All Girls' Festival in March. Interhouse tennis was an afternoon of fun for all the houses with Jagger winning overall.

Emily Groenewald

Emily Batchelor

Hannah Galatis

Zoe Lowan

Deeyana Kader

Amy Rich

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Caroline Rogers (U13A Cape Town Primary Schools Tennis Team)
- Daniela Hadjidakis (U12 B Cape Town Primary Schools Tennis Team)
- Deeyana Kader (U11A Cape Town Primary Schools Tennis Team-Central Zone)
- Herschel Summer Sport Festival
  - A Couple (Caroline Rogers and Emily Groenewald) – 2nd
- PGSGU Interschool Tennis Tournament
  - A Couple (Caroline Rogers and Emily Groenewald) – 5th
  - B Couple (Emily Batchelor and Amy Rich) – 2nd
- Caroline Rogers – Open Herschel Tennis Champion
- Deeyana Kader – U11 Herschel Tennis Champion

Grade 6 Interhouse Tennis

EVENTS

- PGSGU Interschool Tennis Tournament
- Herschel Summer Sport Festival
- All Girls' Festival
- Herschel Tennis Champs
- Interhouse Tennis

*"Tennis has taught me the importance of commitment and perseverance. One of my favourite parts of the year was being team captain and leading my team through the good and tough matches. Competing in the Western Province trials was so much fun and showed me how much I've grown. I'm excited to keep playing tennis as I move through high school!" – **Caroline Rogers**, Captain*

"Tennis has brought me joy ever since l was little. Team tennis allowed me to make friends and play the sport that I love competitively."
*– **Sophie Popham-Holloway**, Captain*

"Tennis has taught me focus, patience, and how much I enjoy pushing myself to improve. My favourite memory is having to play my own partner twice in the tennis champs, which showed me how much this sport means to me and how fun the competition can be."
*– **Emily Groenewald***

*"I love tennis because each point is new, it doesn't matter what happened in the previous point and this teaches me resilience." – **Emily Batchelor***

U11 & Open Finalists

Emily Shaw

SENIOR

Senior Staff

Andrew Scott

Maryke Eloff

Pamela Bowren

Sheldon Cross

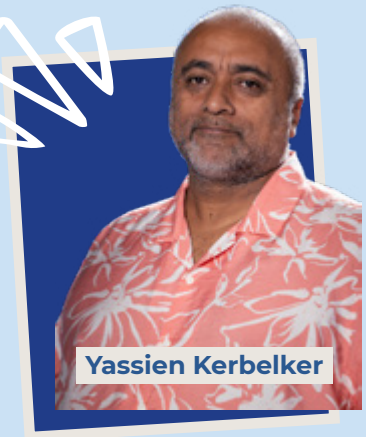
Tillie Venter

Hanneke de Bruijn

Jane Horsfield

Louise van Wyk

Susy McFarlane


Yassien Kerbelker

Mike Howell

Silvana Scarola

Parvathy Naidoo

Kerri-Lynn East

Tasneem Variawa

Alexandra Himunchul

Bongani Sopam

Ncita Koopman

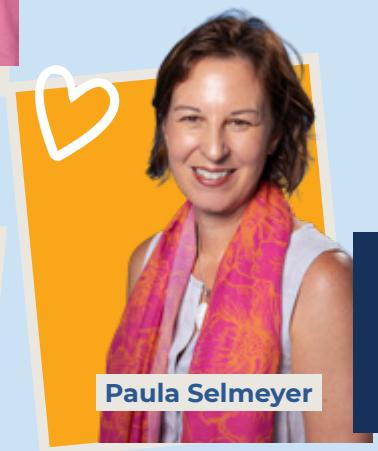
Debbie Main

Victoria Campbell

Heste Oelefse

Iyra Maharaj

Jenny van Loggenrberg


Paula Selmeyer

SENIOR

Candice du Toit

Laura-Jo Smith

Nuraan Barendse

Jenny Wesson

Denise Do 'O Filipe

Lindsay Wills

Jessica Nesset

Annemie Klopper

Heather Goedeke

Elsabe Cairncross

Basheera Lengeveldt

Zikhona Bovana

Shabnum Parker

Naseema Parker

Daniel Nambassi

Tracy Rousseau

Johan Swanepoel

Edwin Charikinya

Hanneke Basson

Petra Conrads

Sarah McArthur

Julie Arguile

Kerryn Crisp

Jeanne Trickett

Meghan Anderson

Carmelita Prins

Lauren-Grace Hoffman

Divine Mwakonya

Carmen Wilsch

SENIOR

Raesetja Tolo

Stacey-Lee Gedult

Brigitte Cass

Heather Oosthuizen

Jan Gouws

Malindri Eastes

Monica Robertson

Rev. Lorna Lavarello-Smith

Nicole Mangondo

Pamela Neethling

Nicole Arendse

The Head's Report

By Mrs Heather Goedeke

In 2023, I quoted Bertolt Brecht: **Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are**. At the time, I could not have fully grasped the pace or scale of change that lay ahead. Now, in 2025, that change is not only evident, but also exponential. With a STEAM build in the pipeline, a strong Independent Examinations Board assessment programme in place, the continued evolution of Interactive Focus Days and Single Focus Days, our classrooms are being reshaped into spaces of inquiry, challenge and authentic engagement. Our staff are not standing still; they are leaning into this complexity, designing learning that cultivates curiosity, demands hands-on thinking, and equips our girls with the skills required for a rapidly shifting future.

And they are doing this, while carrying what is being coined "the invisible load." The role of the teacher has evolved into something far more expansive than subject expertise: it is a mosaic of educator, counsellor, mentor, coach, administrator, and, at times, first responder to the emotional and social realities our young people carry with them into the classroom. Much of this work is unseen and unmeasured, yet it is precisely in these invisible moments that the deepest learning takes root; in the confidence built, the curiosity sparked, and the sense of belonging quietly nurtured. At a time when the demands on teachers continue to grow, often extending well beyond the school day, it is vital that we, as a community, both recognise and value the fullness of what is asked of them. It is our teachers who hold, with remarkable care and commitment, the balance between academic rigour and human connection and it is through their daily, often unseen work that lives are shaped in ways that endure far beyond the classroom. There is an increased sense of busyness; of scheduling – a sense of a lot being squeezed in across so many areas of school life.

Over the past two years especially, I have found myself returning, repeatedly, to a quiet but important concern about the lives our girls are leading. They are busy. Exceptionally so. Mrs Jeanne Trickett (Subject Head: Physical Sciences) shared an article with me which emphasised this point, reminding me of the need to make parents more aware of what we are seeing and experiencing at school, so that parents can be supportive and assist us in the important conversation around being present and creating time. The article Jeanne Trickett shared is titled, **How Learning Works** and can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.

How Learning Works: 10 Research-Based Insights | Getting Smart

It is a thought-provoking read and especially relevant given where we, as staff, are focusing our pedagogical discussions.

The girls' days are full, often impressively full of academic work, sport, cultural commitments, music, leadership, friendships, family responsibilities, and the ever-present pull of social media. On paper, it looks like a rich and balanced life. And in many ways, it is. But there is a growing tension we cannot ignore: our girls are often so busy doing that they are not always able to be and, more importantly, to **think**.

And thinking, we now know, is not a passive or automatic process. It is a skill that requires practice, time, space, and intention. We are introducing girls to thinking skills and concepts that reinforce thinking as a discipline.

Research in the learning sciences reminds us that learning is not simply the completion of tasks or the accumulation of content. It is a far more complex, human process. It involves effort, mistakes, reflection, and the refinement of strategies. It depends on deep thinking; the kind that allows the girls to make meaning, build memory, and connect ideas across contexts.

Neuroscience describes learning as unfolding in three critical phases: encoding, consolidation, and retrieval. None of these happen well in a state of constant busyness. They require pause. They require space. They require, quite simply, time to sit with ideas and time to join the dots.

When that time is crowded out, learning becomes thinner; more performative and less enduring. This matters even more in the world our girls are growing into.

We are living in an age shaped by rapidly advancing artificial intelligence systems that can already synthesise information, generate convincing "voice," analyse patterns, and produce content at remarkable speed. In such a world, the value of simply producing work is shifting.

What becomes more valuable, and more distinctly human, is the ability to think, to question, to reason. To solve problems in nuanced ways. To wrestle with ethical complexity and to engage deeply with human stories and global challenges.

These are not skills that emerge from speed or surface engagement. They are cultivated slowly, through reflection, conversation, and sustained attention. And yet, many of our girls are living in a rhythm where spontaneity is squeezed out, where stillness feels unfamiliar, and where even their downtime is curated and consumed. We have noted over-scheduling and levels of tiredness that are elevated, together with increasing levels of anxiety and sometimes what I can best describe as resignation. This is NOT what a holistic education encompasses! What concerns me most is that this has become normal. Many of our girls are not aware of what is missing because they have rarely experienced anything different. They have been on the proverbial 'hamster wheel' since they were little.
As a school, we are deeply committed to creating environments that support real learning. We prioritise connection, curiosity, collaboration, and challenge. We design opportunities for retrieval practice, spaced learning, and meaningful engagement. We care about our girls' wellbeing; their sleep, their physical health, and their sense of belonging, because we know these directly impact their ability to learn.

We need to partner with parents in support of the girls' growth and wellbeing. There is a powerful role for home in shaping the conditions in which deep learning can take place. This is not a call to remove opportunity or to limit ambition. Rather, it is an invitation to consider balance with intentionality. It is important to ask:

- Does my daughter have time in her week where nothing is scheduled?
- Does she have space to think, to read, to reflect, without the pressure of output?
- Are we protecting her sleep and her ability to disconnect from devices?
- Is she learning to prioritise depth over volume?

Sometimes, the most important learning is happening in the quiet spaces; in the moments when a young person is grappling with an idea, making a connection, or simply allowing her mind to wander and wonder. If we want our girls to become thoughtful, discerning, and compassionate young women, capable of navigating a complex and rapidly changing world, then we must ensure they have the time and space to develop the habit of thinking. Thinking is not "lost time." It is the most important investment we can make.

As you explore this year's edition of **The Herschelian**, you will find plentiful evidence of excellence and achievement, growth and learning, friendship and love, and busyness – lots of that! The array of activities, extensive sporting programme, rich cultural engagement, Herschel community life and the diverse offering of clubs and societies nurtures the holistic educational journey that each girl experiences. We celebrate all that we are privileged to offer to this community of young women; we just need to celebrate quietness, the power of pause, the sanctity of character and the idea of being gracious to ourselves a little more purposefully as we move forward.

Founder's Day

By Ms Tracy Rousseau

Founders Day focused on the telling of stories about moments at Herschel and how they shape us, the connections we make that form lasting friendships, the lessons we learn and how we can use them to make a difference.

HAU Chair's Report

By Karen Meyer

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chair's Report for 2025, reflecting on another year of connection, tradition, and growth within our alumnae community.

This year's Founder's Day celebrations were a resounding success and a highlight of our calendar. We were thrilled to see many of you at the cocktail party, which provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and welcome newer alumnae into the fold. The service at St. Saviour's and the arch ceremony when the school song was sung was a meaningful way to start a special day of catching up and reminiscing.

The Founder's Day lunch that followed was very well-attended and, along with other alumnae and special guests, we hosted the classes of 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2015. The noise level and shrieks of laughter were indicative of all the love and camaraderie that was shared on the day. We were, as always, treated to a short talk by a representative from each year group who shared memories and anecdotes from their time at Herschel. This always gives us a chance to reflect on our shared heritage and to celebrate the enduring spirit of Herschel. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day so memorable.

In case you missed the news, due to the closing of the boarding house the school no longer has access to in-house catering services. This means an external caterer is needed for this event. As a result, we sincerely regret that the Founder's Day lunch can no longer be free of charge. Please rest assured that we are committed to keeping the cost as low as possible. Attendees will be asked to pay only the cost price of the catering, with no additional charges applied. While this is a change from previous years, we remain committed to making the event as special and welcoming as ever. Your presence is what truly makes this day so meaningful, and we hope you will continue to join us in celebrating Herschel and the connections you have made there.

A first this year was an international HAU cocktail party held in London in March. It was a great success with over 60 alumnae attending. We are looking forward to a repeat in 2026.

We welcomed 105 Matrics from 2024 to the Herschel Alumnae Union and we hope that this first year out of school has been a rewarding one. We met the 2025 Matrics in Term 2, and we look forward to welcoming them to the HAU next year and wish them all the best as they await their final results.

In Committee news, we said goodbye to Caroline Isted and thank her for her time on the committee. Regrettably, we were unable to hold our Winter Dinner this year due to a lack of sufficient interest. While disappointing, this offered us an important reminder of the evolving preferences and priorities of our alumnae. We are actively listening and learning from this, and it has prompted valuable discussions about how best to shape future gatherings to ensure they are both engaging and inclusive. In 2026 we will host a Spring Soirée in October at a local venue for drinks and snacks. Friends and partners will be most welcome and we hope to see many of you next year for our inaugural event!

The HAU's overarching vision is to not only preserve the heritage of our school but also build a brighter future for our alumnae community and the students who will follow in our footsteps. We are privileged to be able to contribute at least R30 000 to the school's Bursary Relief Fund per year and would love to one day establish the HAU Bursary. We encourage our members to visit the school when in the area to have a look at our Heritage Centre, as well as to experience the school as it is today and the vision they have for the future. Please contact our secretary, Nikki Turner, if you would like to visit or have a tour: hau@herschel.org.za. We also continue to market and sell our Centenary commemorative items and HAU merchandise in order to contribute more money to the fund. Items can be purchased on our website: www.oha100.co.za.

Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm and commitment to the Alumnae Union, and please do follow our Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn pages to keep up to date with news, events and a bit Herschel history. My thanks go to the enthusiastic HAU committee, our secretary, Nikki Turner, as well as Herschel's IT team.

Ad Dei Gloriam
Karen Meyer
HAU Chair

LADY HERSCHEL COCKTAIL CLUB REPORT

The Lady Herschel Cocktail Club is named after Margaret, Lady Herschel, who accompanied her husband, Sir John Herschel, to the Cape and stayed on the Herschel Estate in Claremont from 1834 – 1838. A stylish hostess, educator and botanical artist, she left her own indelible mark. Our Club's inclusive evenings salute her style and conviviality.

In December we celebrated 25 years of vibrant, sparkling evenings – sharing reminiscences and milestones - at the Mount Nelson. Find us on Facebook: Lady Herschel Cocktail Club or email Daphne Beames at gilespie@iafrica.com if you would like to be "informed of our next gathering. We'd love to see you there.

Prize-Giving

By Ms Kerri-Lyn East

GRADE 12 SUBJECT AWARDS

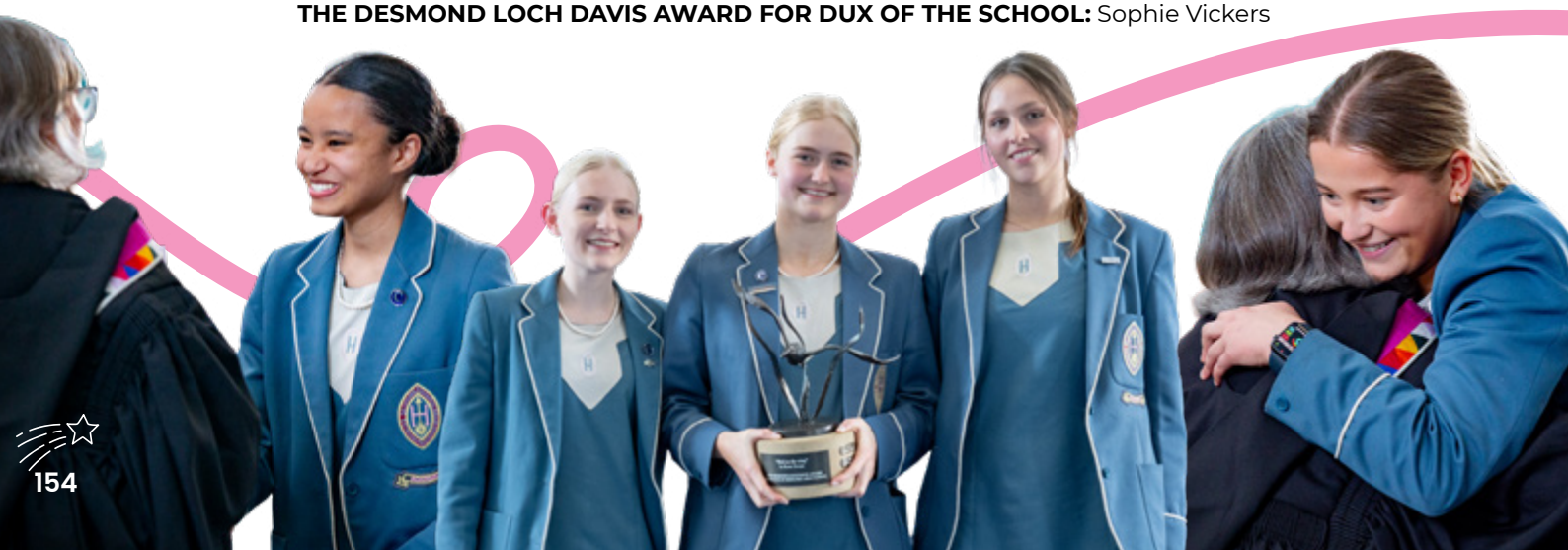
ACCOUNTING: Jessica Schilz
AFRIKAANS FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE: Sophie Vickers
BUSINESS STUDIES: Hala Boomgard
CONSUMER STUDIES: Julia Komninos
DRAMATIC ARTS: Daniella Böttger
DESIGN: Charlize Karimi-Tabesh; Samantha Dore
EQUINE STUDIES: Mia Scheibe
ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE (LADY WOOLLEY PRIZE): Sophie Vickers
FURTHER STUDIES ENGLISH: Viola Unite-Penny
FRENCH SECOND ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE: Michelle Parasnath
GEOGRAPHY: Sophie Vickers
HISTORY: Sofia Sierra-Rubia
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Olivia Egerer
ITALIAN SAL: Sofia Sierra-Rubia
LIFE ORIENTATION: Sophie Vickers
LIFE SCIENCES: Sophie Vickers
MATHEMATICS (LIZ GIBBONS PRIZE): Eva Magrath
FURTHER STUDIES MATHEMATICS: Sophie Vickers
MATHEMATICAL LITERACY: Jemima McQueen; Julia Turck
MUSIC: Grace Mulder; Farah Parker
PHYSICAL SCIENCES: Sophie Vickers
PORTUGUESE SAL: Adenike Da Conceição
VISUAL ARTS: Sofia Sierra-Rubia

GRADE 12 AWARDS FOR GENERAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Aasiyah Bailey, Hala Boomgaard, Daniella Böttger, Tessa Bottomley, Christy Braune, Kelly Cadiz, Reece Corker, Samantha Dore, Rebecca Edwards, Olivia Egerer, Charlize Karimi-Tabesh, Carla Lampe, Eva Magrath, Syriana Mohamed, Grace Mulder, Michelle Parasnath, Farah Parker, Sienna Rossiter, Jessica Schilz, Sofia Sierra Rubia, Eryn Van Vollenhoven, Sophie Vickers.

SPECIAL AWARDS

CHAMBERS TROPHY FOR SPORTMANSHIP: Chloë Taylor
HANNATH TROPHY: Hannah Henderson
BRIDGMAN TROPHY FOR SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR: Hannah Henderson
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS BOOK AWARD FOR ACCOUNTING AND MATHEMATICS: Eva Magrath
ETHEL HILL CUP FOR SPOKEN ENGLISH: Reece Corker and Farah Parker
MULTILINGUAL ORAL PROFICIENCY: Greta Sierra-Rubia
MRS MCCORMICK'S PRIZE FOR SPOKEN FRENCH: Michelle Parasnath
JANET STEYN PRIZE FOR INTEREST IN THE HUMANITIES: Hala Boomgard
AWARD FOR INTEREST SHOWN IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES: Isabella Maltz
THE ALICIA WILKINSON SILWOOD PRIZE FOR PRACTICAL COOKERY: Julia Komninos
MARY MULLER PICTURE OF THE YEAR: Sophia Sierra-Rubia
KAREN DUDLEY DESIGN AWARD: Samantha Dore
STOBIE MUSICIANSHIP PRIZE: Farah Parker
CHORAL PRIZE: Emily Molyneux
INKWENKWEZI MUSIC AWARD: Daniella Böttger
JENNIFER SALE DRAMA TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE: Michelle Parasnath
ANNETTE HARTMANN TROPHY FOR THE DRAMATIC ARTS: Tessa Bottomley and Isabella Lindsay
MCCLURG TROPHY FOR THE THEATRE ARTS: Micah Engel
WATERFIELD PRIZE FOR COMMITMENT, INITIATIVE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE CREATIVE ARTS: Grace Mulder and Kaylin Seymour
JENNY TORR PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO THE LIBRARY: Tessa Bottomley
ERASMUS COMMUNITY SERVICE TROPHY: Sophie Vickers
CLAREMONT ROTARY CLUB INTERACT PRIZE: Christy Braune
KIRSTEN LOCKE FELLOWSHIP AWARD: Lauren Sherwood
SANDRA WINGFIELD FELLOWSHIP PRIZE: Micha Engel and Eryn Van Vollenhoven
SCHÖNBORN TROPHY FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Carla Lampe
PIETAS TROPHY PRESENTED BY THE LABIA FAMILY: Christy Braune
PAMELA DUFF AWARD FOR AN ENQUIRING MIND: Christy Braune
THE DI VAN ZYL AWARD: Rebecca Edwards
THE HEAD'S AWARD FOR FOCUSED, CONSULTATIVE SERVANT LEADERSHIP: Aasiyah Bailey
THE HEAD'S AWARD FOR CONSULTATIVE AND COMPASSIONATE SERVANT LEADERSHIP: Eryn Van Vollenhoven
THE HEAD'S AWARD FOR COMMITMENT, AUTHENTICITY AND DEDICATED SERVANT LEADERSHIP: Daniella Böttger
THE OLD HERSCHELIAN AWARD FOR SERVICE, LOYALTY AND LEADERSHIP (TROPHY): Daniella Böttger
PREMIER ACADEMIC AWARDS: Grade 12 Order of Merit
THIRD PLACE: Christy Braune
SECOND PLACE (PROXIME ACCESSIT): Olivia Egerer
THE DESMOND LOCH DAVIS AWARD FOR DUX OF THE SCHOOL: Sophie Vickers



Head
Prize-Giving Address

By Mrs Heather Goedeke

To the Class of 2025! Hashtags abound: #Thrive or #just alive – I imagine that some of you have been at both ends of that spectrum this year, sometimes within the same week! You have made it to what is officially the end of your school chapter barring the external IEB examinations, but let's not let that minor detail spoil today's celebrations!

For most of human history, we have looked backwards to make sense of the present. We studied archives, weighed probabilities, and pieced together evidence from the past. Now, the narrative has flipped. Increasingly, we research the **future**; predictive data analysis, futurist scenarios, artificial and soon even super-intelligence shaping how we work, live, and relate to the planet.

Ten years ago, who would have thought of asking a tool like ChatGPT to draft a speech like this in under two minutes? (Full disclosure – it took me slightly longer than that. Even ChatGPT struggled with the "humour for teens, parents and grandparents at the same time" part!)

But here's the truth: while machines may assist, we cannot outsource learning, or living, to them. We must protect and defend our spontaneity, freedom, right to express ourselves, right to choose, our planet, our children ...

Lately, when tuning in to news broadcasts or reading the news online, I have found myself thinking that Dystopian literature, once a speculative warning of what *could* be, now reads more like a mirror held up to our present reality. The exaggerated surveillance, environmental collapse, social fragmentation, and authoritarian control that once seemed far-fetched have become disturbingly familiar. In many ways, the genre has lost its fictional edge; not because it failed to imagine the future, but because the future arrived faster than expected. Today, dystopia is not a distant possibility; it's a lived experience for many, making these stories feel less like cautionary tales and more like documentaries in disguise. It is remarkable to think that George Orwell published **Nineteen Eighty-Four** in 1949!

We are living in an age shaped by rapid change: Artificial Intelligence and new ways of working that we can only just begin to imagine. For some, this

feels daunting, but for you, girls, I hope it feels like possibility. The truth is, no generation before you has had so many opportunities to create, to question, and to contribute in bold new ways. AI may be powerful, but it cannot replace what makes us human: our ability to think critically and independently, to bring curiosity and compassion to the world, and to choose with purpose and integrity.

Our responsibility is not simply to prepare you for exams or even for university, but to equip you with the values and habits of mind that will enable you to thrive in this changing world: hard work, courage, curiosity, and the knowledge that your choices matter.

The future belongs to those who can adapt, collaborate and build community, but also to those who have the boldness to stand apart, to think differently, and to act with conviction.

As you sit here today on the edge of your next chapter, I want to turn to four words that matter deeply for the life that lies ahead of you: **curiosity, choice, contribution, and courage**.

IN MANY RESPECTS CURIOSITY SHOULD BE THE SUPERPOWER OF YOUR GENERATION.

The world you have inherited is shifting faster than any generation's before you. Technology, climate change, careers not yet imagined; all of this means that what you know today will not be enough tomorrow. What will matter most is your capacity to keep asking **Why? What if? Why not?**

In a world that is evolving rapidly, that holds so many opinions, shared instantly and impactfully across social media; subliminally at times in the messaging that we are bombarded with, be vigilant, curious and think critically.

Protect that sense of wonder fiercely. It is your edge in this rapidly changing world. Be lifelong learners; humble enough to keep asking questions, brave enough to explore the unfamiliar, bold enough to imagine new solutions.

Do not outsource your writing, do not dilute your thoughts, do not stop asking why? What if? And, when it comes to answers that do not make sense, ask more questions; just different ones.

YOUR EDUCATION HAS GIVEN YOU A PRECIOUS GIFT: THE POWER TO CHOOSE.

With choice comes accountability. Every decision we make leaves a mark; on ourselves, on others, and often on the world around us. It is not enough simply to choose; we must also own the consequences of our choices.

Choices are also tests. They test your character, your integrity, your patience, your empathy. And they are learning opportunities. A "wrong" choice is not a failure; it is a teacher. And it is important to remember that choices are not always permanent. Life is dynamic; doors can open again, paths can curve in unexpected directions. You are allowed to change your mind, to grow, to pivot. Courage is not about always getting it right; it is about daring to decide and then daring to decide again when new wisdom comes.

Remember too that choice is not only about careers or universities. It is about who you are when you're alone with your thoughts, when no one is watching, when the stakes are high. In the end, our lives are shaped less by the circumstances we inherit than by the choices we make in response to them.

To continue, scan the QR code below.

Scan to continue reading

Head Girl Address

By Daniella Böttger

Almost a year ago, I stood up here in the same place and said my first speech as Head Girl. And now, here I am today, unable to believe that my journey at Herschel has come to an end. I never thought this moment would come so soon – the moment I would have to stand here, not as Head Girl addressing the school, but as a girl saying goodbye to a place that has meant everything to her, and I know, to so many others.

This whole year I have been thinking about what to say in this very speech. I have struggled to find the words to describe the ending to this amazing journey. How do I sum up the incredible five years we have spent at this school and the friendships we have made to last a lifetime?

Good morning staff, school, parents, guests, and most importantly, matrics. I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to speak to you all and to properly say goodbye to this place, and most importantly, the special people within it.

I would like to look at today as a beginning, rather than an ending. Over the last few weeks, it has felt like an accumulation of lasts. Last chorale or hockey practice, last interhouse event, last maths triple, even the feelings of not knowing if it will be one of your lasts have been overwhelming. Is this the last time we will walk into reception and see Ms. Titus? Is this the last toastie we will ever order from the tuckshop? There is a sense of security in the finality of valedictory, like everything school related is wrapping up, but the uncertainty of not knowing whether you are interacting with people for the last time has been nothing short of heartbreaking. It has made the last few breaks with unlikely friends or friendly smiles in class all the more special. It is the end of spending our days within these familiar walls among familiar faces, and of laughter that echoed down corridors. It is the end of being surrounded by a community that, for some of us, has become like family, yet, for us matrics, it is also the beginning. The beginning of chasing dreams beyond these walls, of testing the wings we have been growing, and of stepping into the people we are becoming.

Last year I spoke to the school about the perfect recipe for a happy life, and I focused on three things – to laugh, to love, and to live fully. I want to circle back to that, as something that I have tried to live by this year. This year has been unbelievably amazing, but there is no doubt that there have been hard, sad, and even disappointing times, but something that helped to keep me going was laughter. Whether I absolutely flopped a maths prelim, or was just having a bad day, I found that laughter helped in so many ways. Laughter is a universal language that reminds us to simply be, and to live in those moments of joy. The way I see it, life is all about your outlook. I'll give you an example of how I implemented this, this year. Rather than being upset and disappointed about my level of playing in a music prac, I decided to do cartwheels around the music block out of pure joy that it was over. There was nothing I could do about the scales

I messed up, or the pieces that I didn't play correctly, that was in the past. All I could do was keep moving forward and change my mindset, hence my happiness cartwheels. So, although it wasn't the best prac in the world, I left feeling happy and proud of myself that I got through it and focused on how I could be better in the future. That is what life is all about.

You are not defined by your mistakes or about whether your performance is good enough, but rather how you overcome these things and change your outlook.

This is something that Herschel has taught me, and I hope everyone sitting here gets to experience the liberation of knowing that life doesn't have to be perfect to be beautiful. Let loose, laugh a little, and choose to look at the positives in a world that can sometimes feel so negative.

The next ingredient in the recipe was love. When I stand here looking at all of you, I am reminded of one simple truth, the most powerful thing we have shared in our time here is love. While school teaches us about critical thinking and problem solving, these things become insignificant in our lives if our lives lack love and feeling loved. Love is at the centre of everything that matters. It pushes us to live with empathy and compassion. In our school lives, love is shown in quiet ways. It's in the smiles exchanged before a big test, or a hug before a performance, or a teacher reassuring us that we can do it. I want to thank the Herschel students this year for not only filling my life with love and laughter, but for being part of a community that loves fiercely and stands together no matter what. The world beyond these walls will test our strength and push us in ways that feel new and scary, but if we carry the love we've found here, I have no doubt that we will always be okay. Its also not just about the love we give to others, but also about the love we show ourselves. At the end of the day, the most important relationship in life is the one with ourselves, so be kind to your mind, treat yourself with love and care, and let that love overflow into your relationships with others.

If there is one thing that I want to leave with you all it would be to simply live. To dream big, to be present in every moment, to love fully, and to appreciate life for all that it is. Each day we are blessed with the opportunity to live, and when you are granted with the opportunity of life, make each day count. Too often we rush through everyday tasks that we forget to truly live and be present. It can be so hard to learn to slow down and appreciate where we are in life because we are stuck in a routine or are always trying to work towards the next goal. But I want everyone to embrace the messiness and fullness of the human experience. To slow down and really appreciate where you are in life and how lucky you are. We have so much life to live, and the world is at our feet. To the matrics, I am so proud of who we are and who we are becoming, and I can't wait to see what all our futures hold. It has been such a privilege to grow alongside you all, and, whether good or bad, I know that we have made memories for a lifetime. The world is waiting for us, and we are free to choose exactly what we want our lives to look like. How exciting? The possibilities are endless. I want to encourage us all to dream big, don't settle for anything less than what sets your soul on fire, and never doubt yourself. One of my favourite quotes is "Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will," so let this serve as a reminder that we can do anything, and to believe in your dreams and pursue what gives you a twinkle in your eye. I can't wait to catch up with all of you at our reunions and find out what amazing journeys life has taken us on.

To quote winnie the pooh "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?" I'm forever grateful to have called this school my home, and I leave Herschel with nothing but a heart full of gratitude, and a promise to honour what this school, and everyone here has given me. Herschel will remain with me always, like a handprint on my heart.

Ad Dei Gloriam

Scan to continue reading

Sport Awards

By Ms Maryke Eloff

BASKETBALL

Most valuable U14 player: Abigail Attenborough
Most valuable U16 player: Ashley Bassett
The Nicola Vernon trophy for most valuable basketball player: Chloë Taylor
Most improved junior player: Mila Ross
Most improved senior player: Gabrielle Meyer
Most dedicated player: Eryn Van Vollenhoven

CHESS

Most valuable junior player: Sarah Fletcher
Most valuable senior player: Devanya Naidoo
Most improved junior player: Anotida Majirija
Most improved senior player: Faith van Wyk
Most dedicated player: Mia Martens

CROSS-COUNTRY

Most valuable junior runner: Annabel Grey
Most valuable senior runner: Alice Bailey
Most improved junior runner: Lisakhanya Sitelo
Most improved senior runner: Cayleigh Tomaz Weeden
Most dedicated runner: Daniella Böttger and Daniela McIvor
The Scott trophy for Most Physical Endurance and Excellence: Alice Bailey

INDOOR HOCKEY

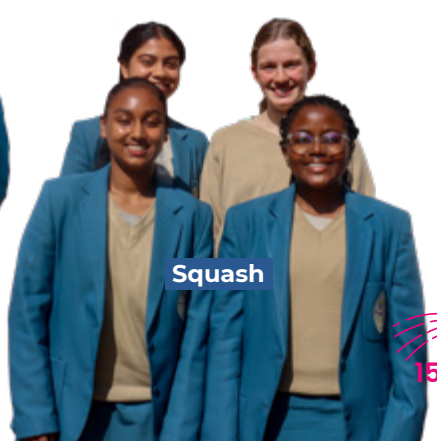
Most valuable junior player: Casey Laver
Most valuable senior player: Hannah Henderson
Most improved junior player: Hannah Paterson
Most improved senior player: Sophie Luger
Most dedicated player: Micah Engel
Exceptional contribution to Indoor Hockey: Samantha Flint
Spirit of Service: Amy Adams

HOCKEY

Most valuable U14 player: Casey Laver
Most valuable U16 player: Layla Slatter and Abigail Jacobs
Most valuable U19 player: Hannah Henderson
Most improved junior player: Lucy Strydom
Most improved senior player: Tess Anderson and Sophie Lashbrooke
Most dedicated player: Charlotte Jacobs
The Bonellie Trophy for dedication and commitment throughout her hockey career: Hannah Henderson
The Thomas Trophy for outstanding play, exceptional team spirit and enthusiasm: Hannah Henderson
Representing South African U16A Team at the Zimbabwe Test Series: Heather Kane
100 Caps for Herschel 1st Hockey Team: Sam Flint and Hannah Henderson

NETBALL

Most valuable U14 player: Mia Neale-Shutte and Ezimmachukwu Obiorah
Most valuable U15 player: Jayde van Vollenhoven
Most valuable U16 player: Kiara Mclean
Most valuable U17 player: Rania Macnab and Simone de la Harpe
Most valuable U19 player: Chloë Taylor
Most improved junior player: Olivia Mundy
Most improved senior player: Jada Martin
The Sibu Dlova trophy for most enthusiastic, talented and committed U14 player: Ezimmachukwu Obiorah
The Justine Peters trophy for the Most dedicated player: Liqhamile Adonis
The Zee Biyela trophy for Best shooter: Isabella Jefferies



Swimming

Tennis

Water Polo

Special Awards

SQUASH

Most valuable junior player: Jasmiya Naidoo
Most valuable senior player: Georgia Morkel
Most improved junior player: Babalo Mzimkulu
Most improved senior player: Devanya Naidoo
Jill Phillip trophy for Most improved overall: Zayaan Sirkot
Most dedicated player: Lucy Mulder

SWIMMING

Most valuable junior swimmer: Arabella Bayly
Most valuable senior swimmer: Cassidy Burgess and Amy Combrink
Most improved junior swimmer: Jessica Durrant
Most improved senior swimmer: Sophia Trout
Most dedicated swimmer: Madison Franks
The Gilbert Trophy for Swimmer of the year: Cassidy Burgess
Exceptional achievement in Swimming: Cassidy Burgess and Sophia Trout

TENNIS

The Karin Macfarlane trophy for Most valuable junior player: Annabel Leith and Alexandra Rogers
Most valuable senior player: Georgia MacKay
Most improved junior player: Rachel Bachelor
Most improved senior player: Katherine Featherstone
Most dedicated player: Georgia MacKay and Gemma MacGregor
The Balance Trophy for ongoing contribution to Herschel Tennis as a whole: Gemma MacGregor
Exceptional Achievement in Tennis: Jessica Schilz

WATER POLO

Most valuable U14 player: Inara Hersov
Most valuable U16 player: Anna Sherren
Most valuable U19 player: Sophie Vickers
Most improved junior player: Mia Neal-Shutte
The Lawrence Trophy for most improved senior player: Samantha Miller and Carla Lampe
The Kate Watts Trophy for the most dedicated player: Anna van Aarde
The Morelli Trophy for biggest contribution to waterpolo: Kirsten Böttger
100 Caps for Herschel 1st Waterpolo Team: Carla Lampe

GENERAL

Team of the Year: Leah Isaacs, Emma Warner, Kirsty Collett, Zoë Rightford, Casey Laver, Karys Koopman, Claudia Böttger, Georgina Maurel, Michela Pharo, Annebel Grey, Zara Govender, Gem Ferguson, Jamie-Lee Horn, Rana Khan, Faye Clark, Lucy Strydom, Andrew Scott
Leadership Trophy: Chloë Taylor
Pick-up Trophy: Kelly Cadiz
HFactor Trophy: Kelly Cadiz
Exceptional Achievement in Karate: Kiara McLean
Exceptional Achievement in Lifesaving: Eve Abrahams
Exceptional Achievement in Track and Field: Eve Abrahams
Exceptional Achievement in Equestrian: Scout Ferguson
Exceptional Achievement in Gymnastic: Leola Wighan, Sarah Holwill, Katie Stephen, Georgia Koffinas
Exceptional Achievement in Cheerleading: Layla MacNaughton
Contribution Beyond Measure: Hannah Moxham, Andrew Scott, Wendy Paterson, Julie Arguile, Meghan Anderson, Mike Howell, Jenny van Loggerenberg, Ncita Koopman, Silvana Scarola, Yaasien Kerbelker, Elsabe Cairncross, Sibahle Mama, Edwin Charikinya, Zikhona Bovana, Divine Mwakonya, Carmen Wilsch, Kerryn Crisp

External Sports

Team of the Year

Matric Results

By Ms Kerri-Lyn East

The 2025 results are inspirational and exceptional!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Of the Class of 2025 who wrote the IEB NSC examinations, **100% passed** and they achieved a **100% Bachelor Degree pass**.

The **89 candidates** achieved **341 distinctions** (excluding FS subjects) which equates to **3.8 distinctions per candidate**. Including Further Studies Mathematics (Standard) and Further Studies English, the Class of 2025 achieved **350 subject distinctions**, which equates to an average of **3,9 subject distinctions per candidate**.

90 of the **350 subject distinctions** (**26%**) Achieved, were an **A+ (above 90%)**.

33 Pupils in the **Top 1%** of NSC candidates for particular subjects.

1 Pupil on the IEB Outstanding List – (Achieved within the **top 5%** in **6 or more subjects** and achieved a **rating level of 7** in Life Orientation).

2 Pupils on the IEB Commendable List – (Achieved within the **top 5%** in **5 subjects** and achieved a **rating level of 7** in Life Orientation).

6 Pupils (**7% of candidates**) attained an **aggregate over 90%**.

45 Pupils (**51% of candidates**) attained an **A aggregate** (**over 80%**).

31 Pupils (**35% of candidates**) attained a **B aggregate** (between **70%** and **79%**).

In total, **76 pupils** (**86% of candidates**) attained an **A or B aggregate** (**over 70%**).

32 Pupils achieved **6** or more **subject distinctions** (**36% of candidates**), and **47 pupils** achieved **4** or more **subject distinctions** (**53% of candidates**).

8 Subjects achieved a subject average of **over 80%**. These are Design, Dramatic Arts, French, History, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy, Music and Visual Arts. In addition to these subjects, Further Studies Mathematics (Standard) achieved an **average of 87%**.

Design, Dramatic Arts, French, History, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy and Visual Arts departments are celebrating achieving **60%** or more **distinctions**. We must particularly congratulate the Music department for achieving a full house of distinctions.

OUTSTANDING PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS:

IEB OUTSTANDING LIST (1 pupil) – (Achieved within the top 5% in 6 or more Subjects and achieved a rating level of 7 in Life Orientation)
Sophie Vickers

IEB COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENTS (2 pupils) (Achieved within the top 5% in 5 Subjects and achieved a rating level of 7 in Life Orientation)
Kelly Cadiz
Sofia Sierra Rubia

TOP 1% OF CANDIDATES PER SUBJECT
Eva Magrath FS Mathematics Standard (18th)
Aasiyah Bailey: English HL
Hala Boomgard: Business Studies, English HL
Kelly Cadiz: English HL
Reece Corker: English HL
Daniella Böttger: English HL
Christy Braune: English HL
Samantha Dore: Design
Maseeha Ebrahim: English HL, Visual Arts
Olivia Egerer: English HL, Visual Arts
Charlize Karimi-Tabesh: Visual Arts
Carla Lampe: Mathematics
Eva Magrath: Mathematics
Syriana Mohamed: Afrikaans FAL, English HL
Michelle Parasnath: English HL
Mia Scheibe: Equine Studies
Jessica Schilz: Mathematics
Sofia Sierra Rubia: Business Studies, English HL, History, Italian, Visual Arts
Viola Unite-Penny: English HL
Sophie Vickers: Afrikaans FAL, English HL, Geography, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences

8 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS (6 PUPILS):

Christy Braune, Rebecca Edwards, Eva Magrath, Farah Parker, Viola Unite-Penny, Sophie Vickers

7 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS (14 PUPILS):

Daniella Böttger, Carla Lampe, Hala Boomgaard, Tessa Bottomley, Kelly Cadiz, Reece Corker, Samantha Dore, Olivia Egerer, Anna Lieberman, Grace Mulder, Mia Scheibe, Jessica Schilz, Sofia Sierra Rubia Eryn Van Vollenhoven.

6 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS (12 PUPILS):

Aasiyah Bailey, Nicole Downard, Maseeha Ebrahim, Madison Franks, Katherine Gutsche, Rebecca Hewat, Charlize Karimi-Tabesh, Tanishka Ramklass, Sienna Rossiter, Julia Turck, Catherine Walker. *

5 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS (9 PUPILS):

Zeah Douglas, Luca Graaff, Isabella Lindsay, Isabella Maltz, Jemima McQueen, Emily Molyneux, Scarlett Olmesdahl. **

4 SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS (6 PUPILS):

Emma Deneys, Safa Hendricks, Sophie Kowarski, Bella Madonko, Kiara Pryce, Greta Sierra Rubia

7 pupils sat the FS Mathematics Elective examinations. Carla Lampe is congratulated for electing to write two FS Mathematics Elective Examinations – Finance and Statistics and achieving a distinction for each. Of the remaining 6 pupils, we celebrate Christy Braune and Sophie Vickers who achieved a distinction each, in Statistics and Finance respectively.

** Some pupils did not consent to the publishing of their names and some were not present to give their consent to the publishing of their names. Herschel Girls School respects and upholds the regulations set out in POPIA and therefore these names are not reflected above.

Chaplains Report

By Rev. Lorna Lavarello-Smith

As we reflect on the year that has been, I am filled with deep gratitude for the many moments in which our school community has gathered, worshipped, and grown together in faith.

Our Easter celebration at St Saviour's Church was a moving and joyful occasion. It offered us space to pause and reflect on the profound message of hope, renewal, and love at the heart of the Easter story. The reverence and spirit with which our girls engaged in this service was a reminder of the depth of faith that continues to flourish within our community.

Another significant moment in our shared spiritual journey was the Confirmation service held at St Cyprian's School. We were honoured that His Grace, the Most Reverend Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, led this service. In his address, he reaffirmed the vital importance of faith within our Anglican schools, encouraging our young people to see their faith not as something separate from their daily lives, but as a guiding presence within them. It was a privilege to witness members of our community publicly affirm their faith, and we celebrate the courage and sincerity of those who took this important step.

This year, I also had the opportunity to attend the National Chaplains Conference in Gauteng. The conference focused on the themes of diversity, belonging, and culture—topics that are both timely and deeply relevant to our school context. The conversations and insights gained have been invaluable, encouraging us to continue nurturing a school environment where every individual feels seen, valued, and belong.

At the heart of our spiritual life at Herschel is the faithful rhythm of prayer and worship. Our Parents' Prayer Group continues to meet weekly, holding the school in prayer with quiet dedication and steadfast love. This powerful ministry is a cornerstone of our community, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment.

Our weekly Chapel services remain a vibrant and meaningful part of school life. These gatherings provide a fresh and engaging space for our girls to explore faith and encounter God in ways that are relevant to their lives. It is always encouraging to see the openness and thoughtfulness with which they participate.

We brought the year to a close with the beautiful service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St George's Cathedral. It was a sacred and reflective celebration filled with beautiful music, scripture, and the timeless story of Christ's coming. We were blessed to have the Right Reverend Joshua Louw, Bishop of Table Bay, preach at our Christmas service, and we were also honoured by the presence of the Very Reverend Terry Lester, Dean of the Cathedral. It was a moment of stillness and beauty, grounding us in the true meaning of the season.

As we look ahead, we give thanks for the many ways in which God continues to work in and through our school. May we carry forward the spirit of faith, compassion, and community that has marked this year.

Chaplain

Student Affairs

Embrace who you were, who you are, and who you are becoming

By Ms Tracy Rousseau

*This year, our school theme was **Embrace**. This took on many different lessons and approaches as the year unfolded – from embracing opportunities, embracing academic challenges and success, to embracing our school community. Upon really delving into this theme, a powerful and sometimes challenging idea emerged: learning to embrace ourselves.*

In a world that often celebrates comparison and perfection, many people feel pressure to measure their worth by marks, achievements, appearances, or awards. We need to embrace school as a place of growth – academic, social and emotional. It is where we develop academic knowledge and essential life skills – critical thinking, collaboration, empathy, perseverance, leadership, kindness and courage. We learn how to manage challenges, recover from setbacks, and stretch beyond what feels comfortable. Growth and learning matters, and yet we sometimes forget that this can be messy and happens in different ways, and at different speeds, for different individuals. Growth should never come from the belief that we are somehow lacking or unworthy. Real growth and learning happens when we know that we matter – not because of a mark, a trophy, or a title, but because of who we are and what we bring into a space. When we believe that we are only worthy once we have achieved "enough," we risk missing the joy of learning and the confidence to try. To embrace yourself does not mean abandoning ambition or effort but rather leaning into every opportunity with an open heart and mind knowing that there is something to learn from it and it is shaping who you are becoming.

Each member of our school community brings something unique. Your voice, your perspective, your questions, your creativity, your kindness – these are not extras; they are essential. Even the parts of yourself that you find challenging or unfinished are part of your story, and they help form your resilience, your empathy, and your understanding of others.

When we embrace who we are, we become less focused on comparison and more open to connection, joy, and authenticity. Embracing who you are allows you to embrace others more fully and we learn to celebrate differences, offer support, and build a community where everyone feels seen and valued.

So the strongest message, for me, of our theme of *Embrace* reminds us that becoming your best self does not mean berating who you were or what you did or didn't do. It means holding all the versions of you that have come before, embracing the person you are today, and stepping with curiosity and courage toward the person you are becoming.

Afrikaans

By Ms Hanneke Basson

GRAAD 8

Hoe ek my beste maat ontmoet

Daar was geen hoop, geen lig en geen sein nie. Maar daar was een ding waarvan ek seker was: ek was verdwaal.

Die pad het voor my uitgestrek. Ek het nie geweet waarheen ek gaan nie. In die verte het ek die geratel van 'n motor gehoor. Helder hoofligte het die nag verlig.

Ek het gedink ek sou 'n volwassene sien, maar daar was 'n jong meisie in die voorste sitplek. Sy was omtrent my ouderdom.

"Wat doen jy hier?" het die meisie gevra.

"Ek kan jou dieselfde vraag vra," het ek gesê.

"Ek het weggeloop," het die meisie gesê. "Wil jy saamry?"

Die vloer van die motor het sag onder my voete gevoel. Ons het in stilte gesit, maar dit was nie ongemaklik nie.

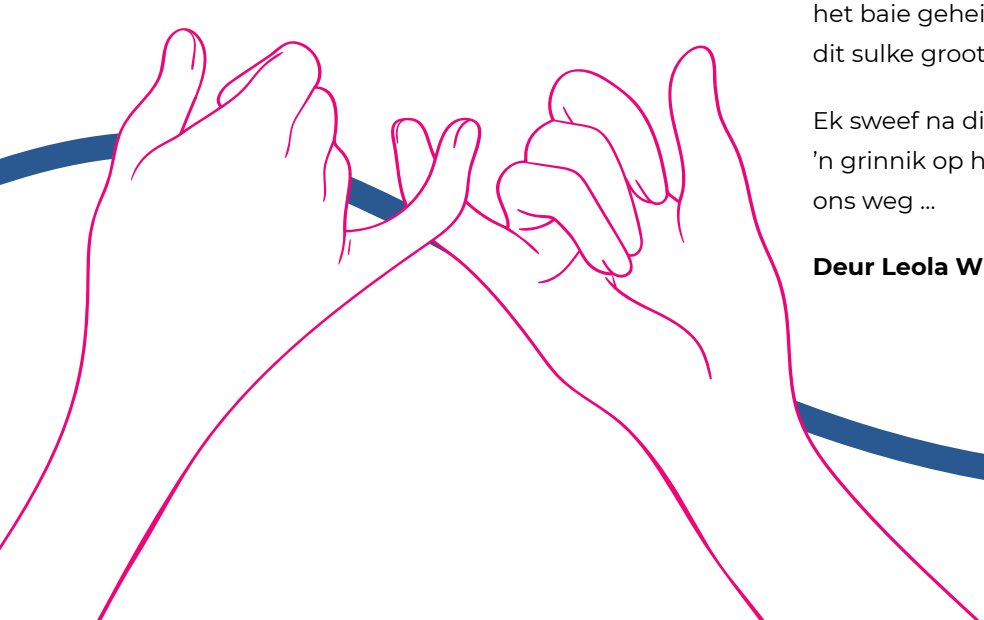
"Waarheen gaan ons?" het ek gevra.

"Ek weet nie," het sy geantwoord.

Ek het nie omgegee nie, want ek het nêrens gehad om heen te gaan nie.

Daardie nag het ons nie 'n bestemming gevind nie, maar ek het iets beters gevind: my beste vriendin.

Deur Kristina Kalil, *Afrikaans EAT*



GRAAD 9

Die geheim in die ou skoenboks

"Kadoef!"

Ek is skielik wawyd wakker. Wat was daardie vreemde geluid? Ek is doodbang en begin sweet. Gaan ek veg of vlug?

Ek klim versigtig uit my bed. Terwyl ek die deur oopmaak, kraak dit. Ek hoop niemand het die geluid gehoor nie en kruip stilletjies in die gang af.

"Kadoef!"

Ek spring regop van pure skok. Dit was weer die vreemde geluid. Nou weet ek waar dit vandaan kom!

Ek stap stilletjies by die trappe af. Dit is moeilik om te sien en ek val van die tweede laaste trap af.

My been pyn, maar ek bly stil deur die pyn en gaan na waar ek die geluid gehoor het ... Die ou kleedkamer!

"Kadoef!"

Ek kyk op. Die venster is wawyd oop. Dit moes net die wind gewees het ... Die geluide ... Die venster ...

Ek draai om, maar dan sien ek Ouma se ou skoenboks op die vloer. Ek is nuuskierig en maak dit oop.

Binne-in is 'n klein kruik en binne-in die kruik is daar 'n vreemde goue stof. Ek maak dit oop en tot my skok stort die stof oor my uit!

My oë rek groot van opgewondenheid wanneer ek skielik begin sweef. Dit moet feetjiestof wees! Ouma het baie geheime gehad, maar ek het nie gedink dat dit sulke groot geheime was nie.

Ek sweef na die venster toe. Buite is daar 'n feetjie met 'n grinnik op haar gesig. Sy vat my hand en saam vlieg ons weg ...

Deur Leola Wigham

GRAAD 10

Dit was die beste dag van my lewe

Dit was vroeg in die oggend op 11 Augustus 2014. Almal het nog in hulle beddens gelê en slaap, selfs die voëls was nog in hul nessies in die akkerbome. Almal behalwe ek, al was ek net vyf jaar oud. Dit was vir my onmoontlik om weer aan die slaap te raak. Ek was te opgewonde oor wat vandag sou gebeur!

Vir die laaste vyf maande was ek saam met my ma na elke liewe afspraak, en ek het gehelp, wel probéér help, om alles gereed te kry vir hierdie spesiale dag. Ons het die muur en die verwarmer geverf, die klere uitgekies, en ek het selfs die nuwe, klein bedjie uitprobeer.

Om aguur was ek al so ekstaties dat ek nie meer stíl kon sit nie! So ek en my ouma het in die kar geklim en na die hospitaal toe gery om uiteindelik my nuwe babasussie te gaan ontmoet.

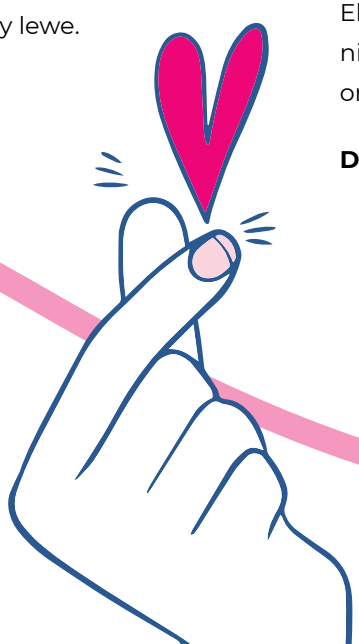
Ek moet wel erken, terwyl ons gery het, het ek ‘n bietjie onseker en senuweeagtig begin voel, maar toe onthou ek, sy is darem nie ‘n boetie nie!

Toe ek by die kamer instap en haar vir die eerste keer sien, het ek gewéét dat sy die beste sussie óóit sou wees. Vanaf die eerste keer dat sy na my gekyk en tandeloos geglimlag het, het ek geweet dat ek vir die res van my lewe vir haar sou lief wees.

Van haar piepkleine ou toontjies tot die drie haartjies op haar kop, was sy perfek, en sy was myne.

Na hierdie dag sou niks weer dieselfde wees nie, maar ek sou nooit enigiets anders wou hê nie. Dít, was definitief die béste dag van my lewe.

Deur Lisa Browne



GRAAD 11

Hoe lyk my toekoms?

Toe ek jonger was, het ek elke detail van my toekoms beplan. Ek het die huis waarin ek sou woon, die presiese ouderdom waarop ek sou trou, en selfs hoeveel kinders ek sou hê, gevisualiseer. Destyds het die toekoms gevoel soos iets wat ek perfek kon beplan, maar soos ek ouer word, besef ek al hoe meer hoe onvoorspelbaar die lewe werklik is.

Die toekoms is nie ‘n storie om te voorspel nie, dit is meer soos n leë bladsy gereed om met spontaniteit gevul te word. Ek het steeds my toekomsdrome, maar nou weet ek dat dinge nie altyd verloop soos ek verwag nie. Mense verander, planne val uitmekaar en nuwe geleenthede verskyn uit die bloute. Gou genoeg lyk die dinge wat ek gedink het ek die graagste wou hê, nie meer so belangrik nie.

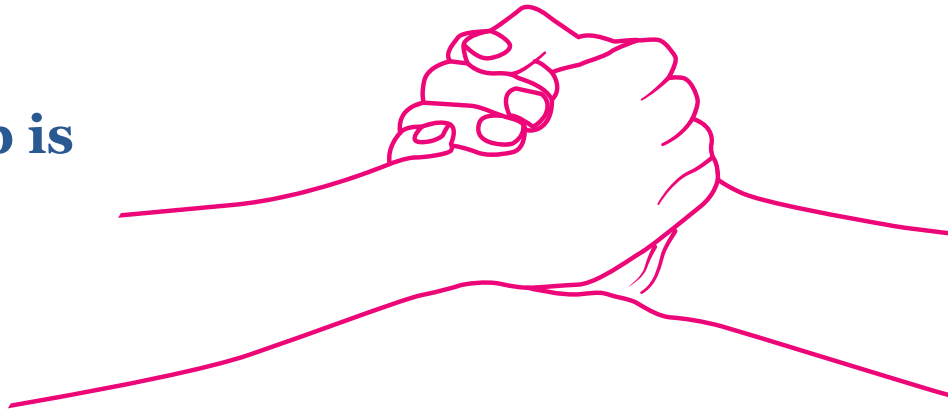
Die onsekerheid het my eers bang gemaak, soms nog steeds, maar nou maak dit my meestal opgewonde. Om nie te weet wat in die toekoms sal gebeur nie, beteken dat enigiets moontlik is. Ek kan iewers heeltemal anders beland as wat ek my as kind verbeel het, en dit is dalk nie ’n slegte ding nie.

Hoe lyk my toekoms? Ek het regtig geen idee nie. Ek weet dit sal sy hoogte- en laagtepunte hê. Ek weet ek sal leer, groei, en waarskynlik langs die pad heelwat foute maak. Ek het duidelik nie al die antwoorde nie, maar ek begin vrede maak daarmee. Al wat ek verseker weet, is dat ek sal streef na ’n toekoms gevul met liefde, geluk en herinnerige vir my lewensverhaal.

Ek dink nie die toekoms is bedoel om beplan te word nie; dit is bedoel om ontdek te word. Een vir een onvoorspelbare oomblik op ’n slag.

Deur Simone de la Harpe

Opregte vriendskap is 'n illusie



"Goeiemôre, goeiemiddag, goeienaand!

Baie dankie vir 'n wonderlike aand.

Veels geluk en bly te kenne; vat die hand.

Simpatie, want ek voel saam met jou vanaand.

Dis alles woorde – net leë woorde – op vals akkoorde

en almal sing dit, almal sing, ja, almal sing dit saam."

Só beklemtoon Koos du Plessis, die legendariese sanger en liedjieskrywer, die leë woorde van vriende.

Die mening dat opregte vriendskap 'n illusie is, dui daarop dat onselfsugtige vriendskap dikwels 'n wanopvatting is. Die menslike natuur en kompleksiteite van die lewe kan onvermydelik lei tot eiebelang of verborge agendas, wat opregte vriendskap soos 'n lugspieëling laat lyk.

Die behoefte om gewild te wees en aanvaar te word kan beïnvloed hoe mense in vriendskappe optree, wat moontlik 'n illusie van opregtheid skep.

Dalk kweek hierdie afsydige siening eensaamheid, maar om nie op ander te vertrou nie, bevorder selfstandigheid. Die wêreld bly vol teleurstelling, maar ons word wyser.

'n Mens wonder of opregte vriendskap dalk bedoel is om 'n illusie te wees, nie in die sin dat dit vals is nie, maar eerder dat dit inherent verbygaande en onvolmaak is, soos 'n legkaart met ontbrekende stukke.

So ja, opregte vriendskap kan 'n illusie wees – 'n vlietende reënboog ná 'n storm. Alhoewel dit nie altyd vertroosting bied nie, besef 'n mens dat jy vriende nodig het. Op hierdie manier word opregte vriendskap beide 'n illusie en 'n werklikheid – 'n paradoks waarmee ons moet saamleef.

Ons projekteer verkeerdelik ideale op ander, wanneer die waarheid is dat ons almal alleen op parallelle paaie loop, en nie in staat is om aan oordrewe verwagtinge te voldoen nie.

Voel jy somber om hierdie verhoudingswaarheid te erken? Miskien tydelik. Maar uiteindelik bevry dit en verminder dit lyding wat uit illusie gebore is. Ons besef ons deurdrenk verkeerdelik vriende met lojaliteit – 'n onrealistiese ideaal.

Deur te erken dat vriende slegs aangename kennisse met beperkte vermoëns is, vermy ons teleurstelling. Ons geniet kameraadskap, sonder onrealistiese verwagtinge. Vriendskap word lig en beroof van uitputtende verraad.

Soos Koos du Plessis sê:

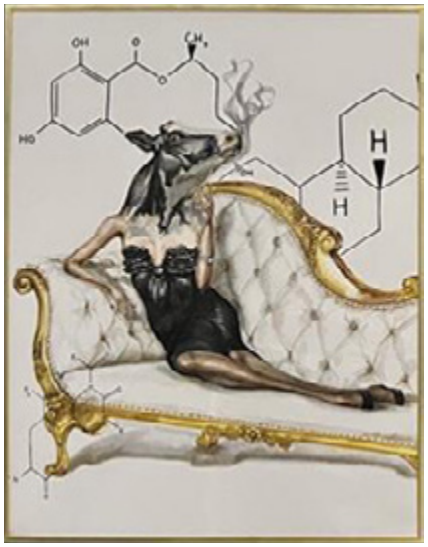
"As niemand jou ooit raak nie,

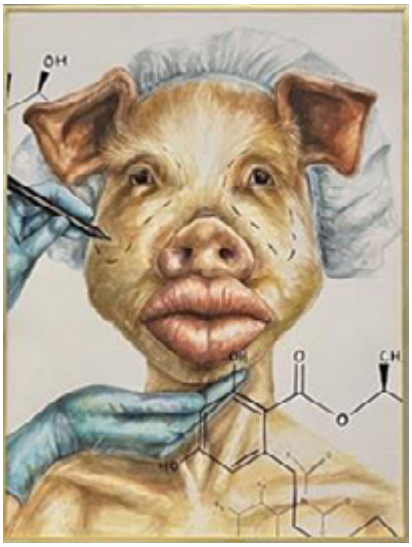
kan niemand trou versin nie –

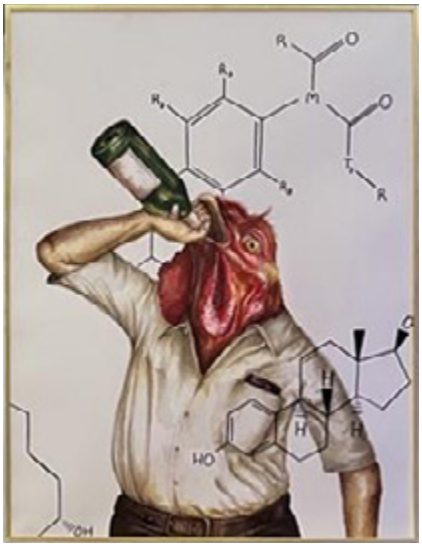
kan niemand jou versaak nie."

Deur Sophie Vickers

Skandeer vir meer







Charlize Karimi Tabesh

A Year of Creativity

By Mrs Laura-Jo Smith

From gallery visits to hands-on workshops, the Visual Arts Department has had a vibrant and inspiring year filled with imagination, innovation, and artistic growth.

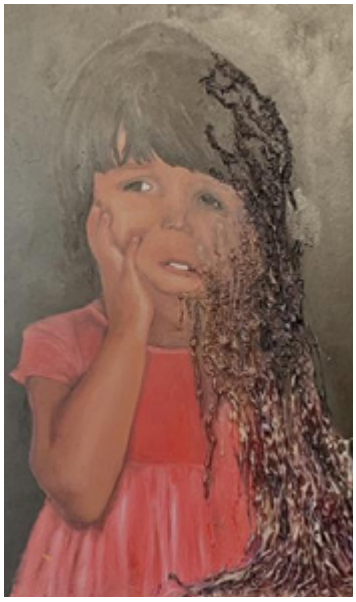
Sofia Sierra Rubia

We launched the year with an All-Grades Exhibition, showcasing the diverse talents of our Grade 8–11 pupils. The theatre and Inkwenkwezi Centre were transformed into dynamic gallery spaces, filled with a variety of artwork celebrating the creative journey across grades.

A highlight of the year was when senior pupils had the incredible opportunity to attend the Cape Town Art Fair, where they were immersed in the pulse of contemporary art. From bold installations to thought-provoking pieces, pupils explored a wide range of artistic voices and mediums. The experience offered a rare glimpse into the professional art world, igniting inspiration and expanding their understanding of visual culture. Conversations flowed, inspiration was taken and perspectives shifted, a truly enriching outing.

Charlize Karimi Tabesh

Luca Graaff



Maseeha Ebrahim

Candice Glaum

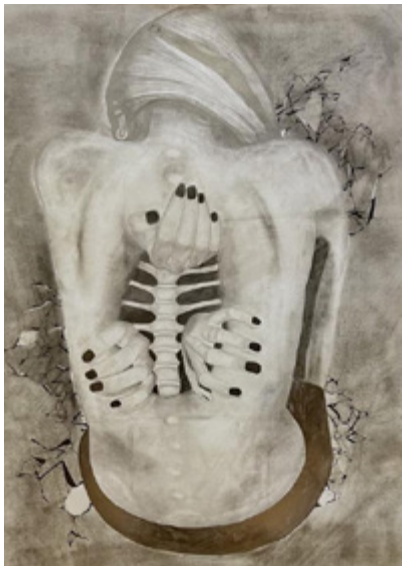
Adenike Da Conceição

Another enjoyable event was the Illustration Workshop collaborative workshop hosted by Red & Yellow. The Grade 11 pupils took part in this high-energy session was all about storytelling through visuals. Pupils worked in teams to develop imaginative concepts under time pressure, sparking laughter, learning, and lots of lively sketching.

This year's Grade 12s explored the evocative theme of Secrets and Surprises, culminating in a dynamic end of year exhibition. The showcase was a rich tapestry of individual expression and conceptual depth, with each artwork revealing layers of personal narrative, hidden meanings, and unexpected twists. The diversity of media and approaches, from animation to interactive installations, made for a visually exciting and thought-provoking experience, highlighting the creativity, ability and originality of our senior artists.

Grade 11 pupils ventured into the world of three-dimensional work and abstraction, beginning to shape their personal artistic voice. Grade 10s had a hands-on year filled with printmaking, digital editing, expressive painting, and oil painting, among other explorations. This diverse range of media allowed students to build technical skills while also experimenting with style and subject matter.

Our junior Visual Arts pupils embarked on a journey from traditional portraiture and natural forms to abstraction and surrealism. Using a variety of mediums, they explored the world around them, translating observation into imaginative, original outcomes.



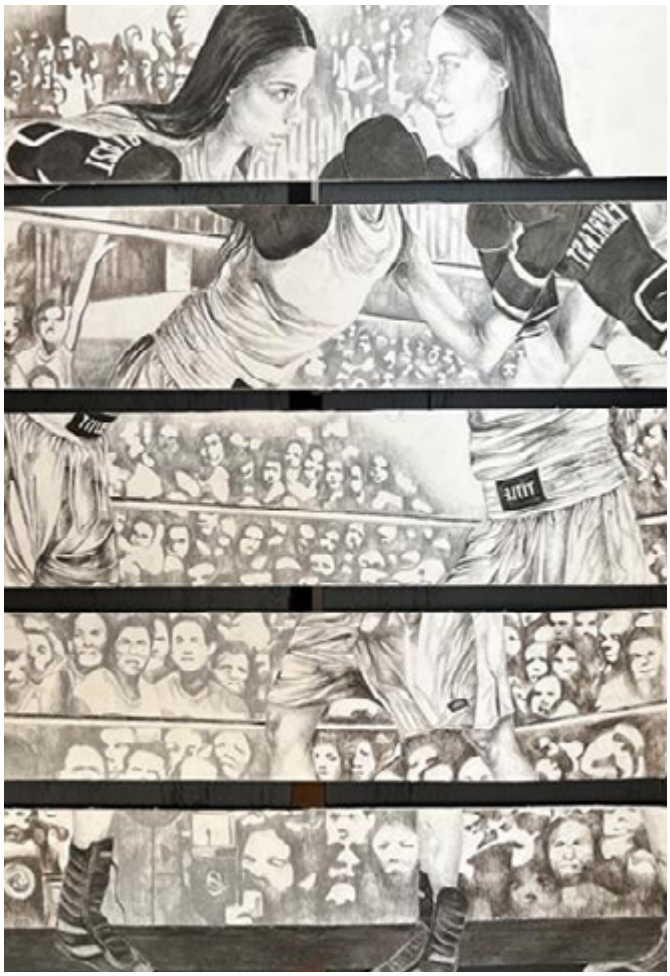
Sienna Rossouw

Saushan Rinquest

Hannah Creedon

Olivia Sutcliffe

Chloe Taylor



Sofia Sierra Rubia

Saushan Rinquest

Ra'eesa Napier

Olivia Egerer

Maseeha Ebrahim

Emma Van Wyk

Olivia Egerer

BRC Library

By Mrs Carmelita Prins

Being Head of Library for 2025 has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my school year. I loved representing and being a part of a space that encourages curiosity and creativity. Events like World Book Day were a big highlight for me; I enjoyed seeing all the various tutor groups become excited about dressing up and announcing it during assembly with our infamous library quizzes. Assisting with the Grade 8 Orientation was a special full-circle moment as I could make them feel welcome just as I did when I first came to Herschel. None of this would have been possible without my amazing Library Team and Ms Prins; they have all taught me so much about leadership, collaboration, and the importance of showing up with enthusiasm to keep everything running smoothly. The library will always be my home inside of Herschel, and I hope it will continue with its important initiatives such as the book drives and raising student gees with dress-up days. My experience with the BRC is something that I will always be proud of and a highlight of my time at Herschel.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day brought excitement and colour to our school as students arrived dressed as characters from their favourite books. The hallways buzzed with imaginative costumes, from the curious world of Alice in Wonderland to the sweet adventures of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the classic Very Hungry Caterpillar. The celebrations and excitements continued during an extended tutor session, where students enjoyed a dedicated reading time, diving into the enchanting worlds of their chosen books. It was a memorable celebration that truly brought the joy of reading to life. World Book Day was definitely one for the books!

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

This year, National Book Week was celebrated in a special way with a visit from Gabi Lowe, author of Get Me to 21. Invited by the library, Gabi shared her powerful story and personal journey during assembly. Her talk evoked a range of emotions and left a lasting impression on students and staff alike. The visit added depth and meaning to the week, inspiring thoughtful reflection throughout the school community.

TEACHERS RESOURCES /BOOKS

1. Teach Brilliantly – James A. Nottingham
2. My Grandmothers hands – Resmaa Menakem
3. Teach like Finland – Timothy D Walker
4. Never Enough – Jennifer Breheny Wallace
5. The Let Them Theory – Mel Robbins
6. Weeping becomes a river – Siphokazi Jonas

Commerce

By Mrs Nuraan Barendse

The Commerce Department has had an engaging year, filled with opportunities for pupils to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Through Accounting, Business Studies, and our electives, pupils explored the world of finance, entrepreneurship, and innovation in meaningful and practical ways.

The Grade 10 Business Studies pupils focused on sustainable enterprise, working collaboratively to develop business concepts that responded to real-world environmental and social challenges. They showcased their creativity by designing products with purpose and developing a "gift-with-purchase" strategy to attract and retain customers. Teamwork and innovation were further strengthened through the Real Life for Teens Minecraft simulation where pupils collaborated to manage resources and generate income.

The Grade 11 pupils deepened their understanding of the business environment by researching the top South African clothing retailers, analysing how major brands compete, adapt, and innovate in a constantly evolving market. In Accounting, pupils refined their analytical and financial skills, recognising how accurate reporting and interpretation underpin responsible business practice.

Our Biz & Beyond classes brought entrepreneurial energy to campus through the creation of business plans and the hosting of a lively Market Day, which buzzed with enthusiasm and creativity. These activities reinforced the importance of initiative, collaboration and problem-solving – qualities that lie at the heart of successful enterprise.

Through all these experiences, pupils have come to appreciate that entrepreneurship is not just about profit, but about purpose, resilience, and adaptability. The Commerce Department continues to nurture these skills, preparing pupils to engage confidently and ethically with the ever-changing world of business.

Consumer Studies

By Mrs Brigitte Cass

In a subject that covers a wide variety of topics that are relevant to day to day life, Consumer Studies students learn about consumer issues, clothing and fashion, sustainability, interiors and housing, entrepreneurship, finances, and budgeting and of course food which includes the practical aspect and nutrition.

Relevant and skills- focused, Consumer Studies highlights many issues and situations and trends that consumers are exposed to, making it a life-lesson subject, preparing students for real-life situations. Topics are scaffolded across the grades, each grade building on knowledge from the previous year.

NUTRITION AND FOOD: everything from buying and preparing food, knowing which foods are necessary for a balanced nutritional diet, to the correct types of diets to prevent lifestyle diseases and an awareness of sustainability and other issues such as food security, GMO and organic farming.

CLOTHING, FASHION AND TEXTILES: from the origin of textiles and fashion to being able to identify and make use of textile items in a sustainable way, as well as creating an awareness of issues that exist in the clothing and textile industry, like Fairtrade practices, organic textile production and brand piracy.

INTERIORS AND HOUSING: starting from the bottom with different housing options in South African to decorating spaces and buying, renting and building of homes.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP equips students with skills to start a small enterprise as a possible means of income. Products are developed from the ground up, with recipe ideas based on marketing research, costing is calculated and packaging is designed all taking market trends and sustainability into account.

FINANCES, BUDGETING AND TAXES and all the nitty gritty one encounters in adult life are also addressed.

This year both the Grade 11 and Grade 12 students had the challenge of designing and baking and decorating a novelty cake for a special occasion. Skills were learnt and practiced repeatedly to achieve beautiful results.

Single Focus Days are always a highlight and this year the Grade 12 class spent the day learning the art of Sushi making, instructed by Mrs du Toit. The Grade 11 class spent the morning in teams, using their creativity and food knowledge in the designing of dishes using ingredients in a 'mystery box'. The Grade 10 SFD focused on designing alfresco meals and learning to build a fire to cook certain elements of their dishes over an open fire. The Grade 10 class showcased their entrepreneurial skills in a collaboration with the Design student at a pop up market day, where they sold ramen dishes, packaged in beautifully designed ramen boxes designed by the grade 10 Design students.

Design

Drama and Consumer Studies Collaboration

By Mrs Candice du Toit, Mrs Sarah McArthur and Mrs Brigette Cass

The Herschel Design Department has had a dynamic and enriching year, marked by interdisciplinary collaborations, industry engagement, and conceptual exploration across all grades. Highlights included Grade 10's successful Noodle Box collaboration with Consumer Studies, Grade 11's wearable art and performance project on " ...isms" with Drama, and Grade 12's culminating exhibitions in response to Sub-Cultures and The Intentionality Phenomenon. Students participated in workshops with Red & Yellow, the Cape Town Sewing Centre, and a professional milliner, gaining real-world insight and practical skills. Across all grades, learners developed design literacy, creative autonomy, and critical thinking through hands-on design practice.

GRADE 8: DESIGN-O-VATION

Hand Rendered Surface Design inspired by the Art Nouveau movement

GRADE 9: INSIDE OUT

Interior Design – Ground plans and scale models for a teenage entertainment space.

GRADE 10: UTILITY BELT

Designing, sewing and construction of Utility Bags.

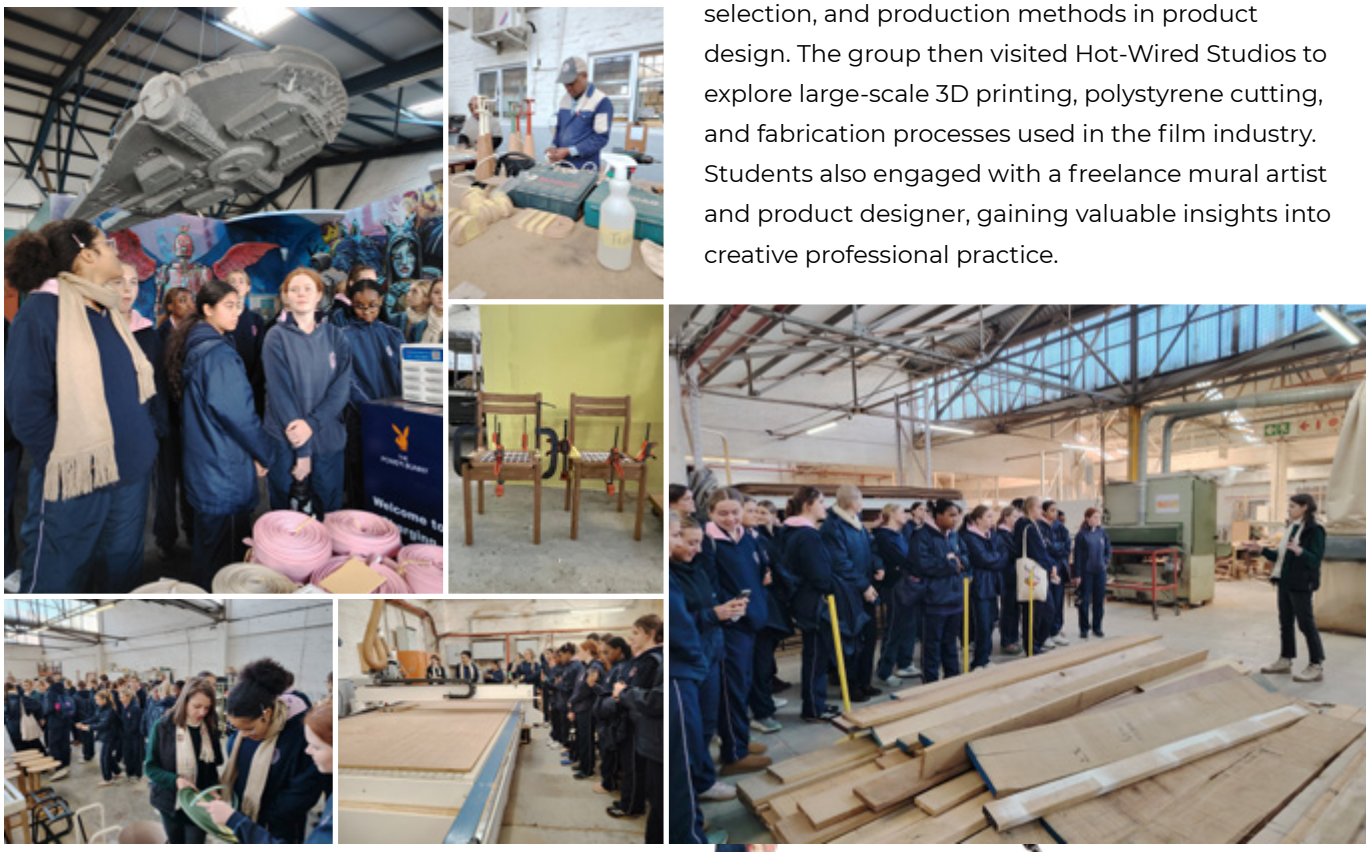
GRADE 10: THE ASIAN NOODLE BOX COLLABORATION

The Grade 10 Design and Consumer Studies departments teamed up for an exciting cross-disciplinary project titled The Asian Noodle Box Collaboration. This initiative challenged Design students to develop original logos and flatpack packaging designs for Asian noodle takeaways, while the Consumer Studies students took charge of researching, developing recipes and preparing the noodle dishes, and designing the nutritional panels for the packaging. The project not only encouraged creative thinking and problem-solving but also highlighted the importance of collaboration between visual communication design and practical food production.

The culmination of weeks of hard work was celebrated with a vibrant pop-up noodle sale around the fountain – and the response was phenomenal! Within just five minutes, every single noodle dish had sold out. The event was a delicious success and a testament to the students' creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial flair. Both departments can be proud of a project that combined design innovation, aesthetic excellence, and real-world application in such an engaging and memorable way.

GRADE 10: SFD OUTING
PRODUCT DESIGN AND PROCESSING IN THE DESIGN INDUSTRY

The Grade 10 students went on an industry-focused excursion to the Pedersen + Lennard furniture factory, where they observed the design process, material selection, and production methods in product design. The group then visited Hot-Wired Studios to explore large-scale 3D printing, polystyrene cutting, and fabrication processes used in the film industry. Students also engaged with a freelance mural artist and product designer, gaining valuable insights into creative professional practice.



GRADE 10: PRACTICAL EXAM – SWING TAGS

GRADE 11: COLLAB WITH DESIGN AND DRAMA: '...ISMS'

DREAMSCAPES & DISTORTIONS: A FUSION OF DESIGN AND DRAMA

This year's Grade 11 Design and Drama collaboration, **Dreamscapes & Distortions**, was a bold exploration of wearable art and theatrical performance rooted in Dadaism, Surrealism, and Absurdism. Design students created original garments and accessories that challenged conventional fashion, while Drama students brought these pieces to life on stage through performances inspired by the Theatre of the Absurd. Drawing on the genre's themes of illogic and existential questioning, the pieces evolved into a contemporary expression of the chaos and absurdity of a modern generation, a reflection of today's fractured world-view and the complexities of living in uncertain times. The project fostered inquiry-based learning, creative autonomy, and interdisciplinary thinking, as students navigated real-world design briefs, adapted staging to suit evolving costumes, and reflected deeply on identity, symbolism, and storytelling. More than just a showcase, this initiative exemplified how art, design and performance can merge to create meaningful, thought-provoking experiences, preparing students for creative industries and collaborative futures.

Watch video

GRADE 11: PRACTICAL EXAM – ISMS CONCEPT BOARDS

SENIOR

CURRICULUM

GRADE 11: ISMS SHOWCASE

Watch video

Watch video

GRADE 11: SFD MILLINERY WORKSHOP

STAFF SEWING WORKSHOP IN THE DESIGN ROOM

GRADE 12: DESIGN YEAR WORK EXHIBITION IN RESPONSE TO THE THEME: 'SUB-CULTURES'

This year, Herschel's Design Department proudly showcased the creative journey of its Grade 12 students in a vibrant exhibition that celebrated both conceptual depth and technical skill. In Grade 11 they explored the expressive world of wearable fashion through the Steam Punk Project, along with their year work responses and products to the theme The World of Sub-Cultures. Showcasing innovative design solutions across product, environmental, and visual communication disciplines. The exhibition brought together months of inquiry-based learning, ideation, and craftsmanship, culminating in a dynamic display of concept boards, prototypes, and digital portfolios. It was a powerful testament to how design can reflect identity, challenge norms, and inspire change.

IEB PAPER 2: THE INTENTIONALITY PHENOMENON

This year, the Grade 12 Design students undertook the IEB Design Paper II Practical Examination, a rigorous and creative journey centred around the theme The Intentionality Phenomenon. Over several months, students engaged in a comprehensive design process that included ideation, concept development, production, and exhibition. The project challenged them to explore how design can be purposeful, contextually relevant, and socially impactful.
Most students chose to work within the disciplines of Environmental Design and Product Design, reflecting a strong interest in spatial innovation and functional aesthetics. Their final submissions included architectural models, interior layouts, and original product prototypes, each supported by detailed concept boards and examination workbooks. These components demonstrated not only technical proficiency but also thoughtful engagement with real-world issues and user needs.

The exhibition of their work was a testament to the depth of inquiry-based learning and the students' ability to translate abstract ideas into tangible, meaningful design solutions. As these young designers prepare to enter tertiary studies and creative industries, the skills honed through this project will serve as a strong foundation for future innovation and impact.

GRADE 12: P2 THE INTENTIONALITY PHENOMENON

Drama: Shakespeare Fest

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

This year, our Grade 8 and 9 students undertook Shakespeare's much-loved comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream. We paid homage to Wes Anderson's distinctive aesthetic, drawing inspiration from Moonrise Kingdom in particular. Our reimagined production transported the lovers to a lively 1965 American campsite, complete with spirited drama-student "mechanicals" and free-spirited hippies "fairies". It was another fabulous experience for our young performers to work on a professional stage as part of our ongoing celebration of the Bard.

Drama
In the Classroom

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

*"I think that drama has really helped me to become more confident in myself and my abilities this year, both in and out of the classroom. I have learnt that I am capable of putting myself out there and creating amazing things." – **Charlotte Plummer***

*"Drama has taught me to connect and embrace my character. It taught me to go deeper than just the script and the lines." – **Inara Hersov***

*"Drama has helped me realise that my sensitivity is my greatest strength, and often things are never really that deep, so it's better just to enjoy something instead of stressing about it." – **Michelle Parasnath***

*"I have made more friends and felt more confident within my grade." – **Amilie Hardres Williams***

*"The final result of all my practical's have been really rewarding and have made me proud. I have also enjoyed all of the laughs we have shared as a class, it has helped me to feel more comfortable in the space." – **Scarlet Turck***

*"The monologue has changed my perspective as it has taught me that time and preparation is important especially in advance because in order to perform well you would need to understand the instructions given and all the actions or staging needed to be done." – **Rana Kahn***

*"My academic drama skills have grown, and I have learnt how to achieve good marks in a test/essay format. I now also have a better understanding of dramatic processes and history, which has helped with bettering my practical drama skills." – **Francis Lienberger***

*"Drama has helped me get more comfortable with doing uncomfortable things on stage." – **Riley Hoskin***

Drama

Think Equal

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

Drama: Grade 12

Practicals

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

French

By Mrs Susy Macfarlane

"Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things." Flora Lewis

French is not just a subject, it is a taste of life! From flipping crêpes to tossing boules, we learned the language and lived the culture.

"My favourite memories were when we did fortune telling in class, and when we played boules on the SFD which was so much fun!"
– Jayde van Vollenhoven

"I love learning about the different areas of France and the little bit of French stories and history that madame teaches us."
– Dylan Land

"I have learnt way to much to even try list but the most important is the ability to speak another language."
– Amelia Weir

English

By Parvathy Naidu

Like our beloved Nelson Mandela, we in the English department believe that "Education is the most powerful weapon which [we] can use to change the world."

The fulfilling of this lofty ideal starts with having a crackerjack team which, at the beginning of 2025, was complemented by the addition of two phenomenal teachers, Mrs Pamela Neethling and Mrs Julie Arguile. Both these teachers have a long and impressive record of teaching English and Further Studies English at prestigious IEB schools, and have brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our team. This has gone a long way to solidifying our transition to the IEB, and cementing collegial relationships within the department.

If we are to change the world in a sustainable and impactful way, we need to start small, build solid foundations, explore new ways of defining success, explode anachronistic and narrow-minded thinking and embrace change, so that our students may contribute to a community, society, and world that is better informed, kinder, and more humane. This required an audit of our set works to reflect a more diverse and inclusive set of values and perspectives.

We are very excited about our choices across all the grades. English allows us to use literature to expand our minds and our consciousness because "the beauty of all literature [is that] you discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong." – F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The English team has embraced a reworking of the Grades 8 and 9 curriculum by engaging in an in-depth skills analysis exercise. Our lessons focus more intentionally on metacognition, critical thinking, ethical awareness, creativity, curiosity, and social awareness. These skills feed into and support our commitment to Inquiry Based Learning, with our teachers attending training workshops to re-skill and up-skill themselves.

Most English lessons are vibrant and stimulating. We love trying new things, like AI tools, to spice up our lessons and show our students that we too can take risks which sometimes work and sometimes don't. Hopefully this will help change the perfectionism mindset and allow students to learn through play and not take themselves too seriously. Here follows a snapshot of some of the exciting things we have done on SFD days in each grade.

The Grade 8s watched the play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the theatre and then they were assigned groups. They had to work collaboratively to change the ending of the play and suggest what could have happened following the wedding. This was a way to assess understanding and to allow for a creative outlet in groups. They then had to present their altered endings to the class. This was a fun and exciting way for the students to play around with The Bard's work and perhaps lose some of the fear associated with "Shakespeare's English".

In Term Two, to complement and enhance their study of an important South African play, "District Six" by Taliep Peterson and David Kramer, the English Department offered the Grade 9s a Single Focus Day which was centred around stimulating their curiosity for their environment – the history and context of the city in which the students live, as well as the history and context of South Africa's apartheid past and how it continues to be felt in the present. It was important for students to be given the historical context of District Six and the forced removals which took place there, but the intention was to achieve this through the stories of the people who had experienced this. Thus, after liaising with the District Six Museum in the city, Mrs Neethling got an education officer to visit our school, accompanied by four respected elders who had lived through the demise of the District and who are still living the consequences of forced removals. There was a compelling, interactive, illustrated, engaging presentation of apartheid through the lens of those whose lives were most affected by it in the theatre. Students were also divided into much smaller groups, each assigned to an elder who shared her story and answered questions in an informal, conversational presentation. All these activities sparked the students' curiosity in the events that led to the forced removals. Students responded warmly to being exposed to history through personal stories and practical experiences; many of our students had never heard of District Six and had a fairly tenuous grasp of our apartheid history, so many questions and ideas resulted from our activities.

The Grade 10s studied the film "The Whale Rider" in the fourth term of 2025. They also needed to expand their understanding of filmic techniques and what goes into making a film or television programme. Their SFD started by watching the film and it was generally very well received. The most exciting part was when a local television production company provided some wonderful practical insights by role-playing, showing clips, and answering many questions from our students. The final session of the day was used to provide the students with a creative opportunity to take a photograph (in pairs) according to a given theme: my school as a prison, my school as my home, or my school as a circus. They presented these photos to their peers using film terminology to explain the symbolism and their choices involved in the mise-en-scène of the shot. In this way, they became creators and were immersed in the very processes about which they were learning

Everything is context bound and this was beautifully illustrated for the Grade 11s on their SFD. They used what they had learned about 1920s America from a self-study documentary to explore Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby". They looked closely at the era's social and economic inequalities and analysed how Luhrmann's use of excess, hyperbole and spectacle shapes the story, bringing Fitzgerald's classic text to life. This focused work helped them understand both the historical context and the film techniques used to convey meaning, giving them a strong and confident foundation for further study in Grade 12.

After studying "Othello" in Grade 12, the students were treated to an engaging and fascinating live performance by the Riverside Theatre Company. Their unique take on the play centred around getting Shakespeare to explain the play. A Grade 12 pupil is tasked with writing an in-depth analysis. She contacts Shakespeare. The Bard must now respond to Curriculum-based-Questions with Curriculum-based-Answers. The live performance with a mind-map projection, an educational explanation that also touched on The Great Chain of Being, and rounding off with a Q&A, proved to be extremely useful to the students as they grappled with the nuances of one of Shakespeare's all-time great plays.

Staff and students dug deep to make 2025 a most rewarding year in the English classroom. Colleen Wilcox was not wrong when she called teaching "the greatest act of optimism." It is indeed huge dollops of optimism that we shall continue to use to change the world, one heart and one mind at a time.

GRADE 8

"High School"

by Olivia van Sittert

Herschel is my home.
From every locker to every page,
Everywhere I roam
From the tuck shop to the stage
I always feel at home.
Herschel is quiet yet quite noisy
It's busy yet still
Complicated yet simple
Slow yet fast
Hot yet cold
Energetic yet tiring
Hard yet easy
And so, so very hungry -
Hungry for the last biscuit at the tuck shop
Hungry for a win on the sports field.
There is always something to do at Herschel -
From sports to academics
From coaches to teachers
From practices to homework
They always know how to keep us on our toes.
Herschel will always be my home.

The girl in flames

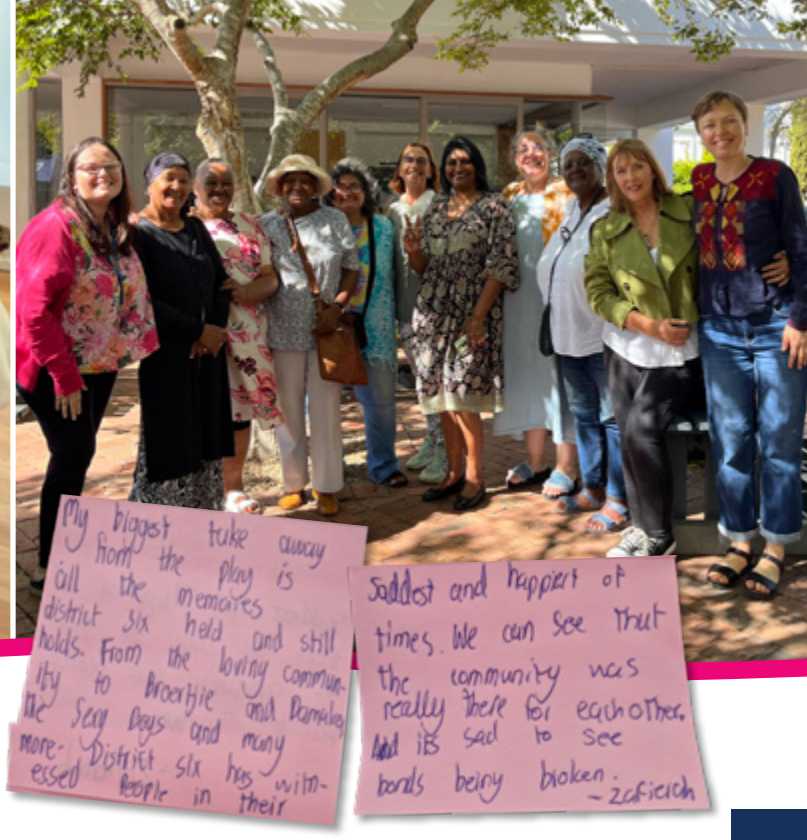
By Kristina Kalil

I could feel the scorching layer of bright flames surrounding my fingers. I could feel the daggers of fire dancing around my hands, slowly creeping their way up my arms. The pain pursued its path up my upper body. I could taste the bitter stench of smoke on my boiled tongue. The thought of my burnt skin gave me unmistakable chills. The flames pirouetted on my neck leaving their deep swollen footsteps. Power.

The energetic feeling of sublime power ran up through my veins. I could sense the strong feeling throughout my burning body. I felt a surge of flames rise from my skin, forming into an almost sphere of glowing red energy. I could hear the crackling of the ball singing like a choir of red demons, escaping the evil.

My once tattered skin now knitted itself back together; each crack and canyon carefully vanishing before my blurry brown eyes. The once colourful living room stood in a ruined pile of crumbling ashes, taking the vibrant memories of the space along with it. The stained-glass mirror stood lonely in the graveyard of black dust. Looking into it, I found myself staring at a very strange version of myself.

My once fair skin was now flushed and hot to the touch. My hazel eyes were now a mysterious mist of a magnificently dark red filter. My dark hair was now a burning flame on my scorched red scalp. I felt oddly calm, yet a freakishly maleficent smirk sat on my ashy lips. Destruction: an idea I always enjoyed, now a power that I possess.



GRADE 9

The Herschel English Department was delighted to welcome representatives from the District Six Museum in Cape Town to run an interactive and visual workshop with our Grade 9 students in preparation for our study of District Six by David Kramer and Taliep Petersen. Mandy Sanger designed and facilitated the workshops, which included input from Susan Lewis, Farahnaaz Gilfelleon, Nadeem Williams-Oostendorp and Francis Macdonald, all District Six elders. The students responded warmly to our guests and after the workshop enjoyed viewing "District Six, the Musical", to complete their Single Focus Day.

My experience with the experienced

By Jasmiya Naidoo

I experienced something...it wasn't school but I was taught. It wasn't a job but I gained experience. I offered nothing and yet was appreciated. My outing to the retirement home Pinelands Place on July 19th gave me all this in just two hours.

A lovely woman named Beryline helped my sister and me become informed. She spoke to us about what we were going to do and what she does, managing heart-filled kitchens. On that day we were just shadowing the kitchen staff, so we observed intently.

It was refreshing to see an organised, clean kitchen with competent workers in it. I could tell the workers weren't just doing their job, they were working cohesively in a team. A plate would get passed down the table gaining food and love, then passed to a waitress, until a steaming, colourful plate sat in front of an eager-looking guest. A few confused faces puzzled us, but many of them returned our hesitant smiles.

At 12:45 on July 21st we were back again, but now waitressing. We served bread while steaming mushroom soup was distributed. My anxious face and tense body made the elderly smile and chuckle, as though I reminded them of something or someone many decades ago. After serving their mains and collecting the dishes, it was safe to take a huge breath of relief for no unfortunate accidents.

This experience was extremely enriching and exposed us to many layers of the real world. Even though the elderly were well looked after, had a peaceful garden and delicious smelling food, loneliness still lingered in the air. I hope our presence brought some comfort to these people's lives, but I know our mere presence brought reminiscences and memories which are far greater than any donation. So I will definitely be going back and learning everyone's names.

Geography

By Mrs Naseema Parker

Funnels and Faults S2 – Tectonic Plates Model

Left to right: Daniela Okedi, Jasmiya Naidoo, Lesedi Mabikano
Front: Layyah Arnold Model: Tectonic Plates – Destructive Margin

GRADE 9: FUNNELS AND FAULTS

Dive deep beneath the Earth's surface in this exciting elective that uncovers what our planet is truly made of. From rocks and minerals to shifting plates and powerful natural disasters, learners explore the dynamic forces that shape our world. Through inquiry, critical thinking, and hands-on learning, students develop a deeper understanding of how the Earth works – and the incredible processes that keep it constantly changing.

GRADE 9: SUNSHINE OR SNOW

An fieldtrip to the South African Weather Services Station at the airport. – The learners were able to see the process of collecting weather information and looking into it as possible career choice.

*"At the weather station I noticed all the screens and colourful displays. Later I learnt each colour showed different weather data like temperature, wind speed and more. I found this really cool." – **Imaan Manuel***

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the weather station experience; it's a hidden treasure that can teach you a lot about what it means to be a meteorologist and personal stories of weather related adventures that some of the workers went on." – **Rachel Bachelor***

*"I LOVED the weather station and all the cool equipment that I saw #realcool #besttime" – **Vuyo Mkosi***

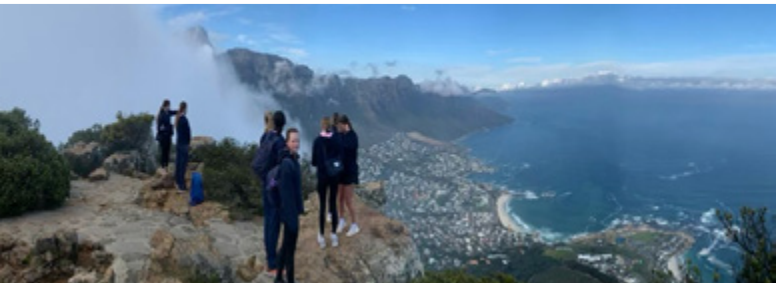
GRADE 9: AROUND THE WORLD

Our field trip to the vibrant V&A Waterfront and up the Table Mountain cable car offered not only breathtaking aerial views but also a valuable geographical perspective, allowing learners to see the city from a completely new point of view. This is what the students had to say to sum up the outing in a fun, snappy line or two!

*"I found our single focus day really fun and interesting. I especially enjoyed the experience of going up the cable car to the top of Table Mountain." – **Scout Ferguson***

*"Geography with a view. We saw landmarks, mountains and even ate ice-cream too!" – **Amelia Weir***

*"Who knew an outing could taste like nougat ice cream and feeling like floating in the clouds?" – **Sienna Airey***



GRADE 10

The Grade 10s began their morning bright and early with a hike up Lion's Head, where breathtaking views set the scene for learning beyond the classroom. From above, they identified various land uses and observed the natural beauty that shapes our landscape. The outdoor classroom continued in Hout Bay, with a stop at the historic shipwreck beneath the Twelve Apostles. It was a day of learning, seeing, and investigating. Bringing Geography to life through real-world exploration.

GRADE 12

Our Geography learners took their classroom to the streets on an immersive outing through the CBD, exploring the city's diverse land uses and distinctive building façades. With an inquiring mindset, they observed the sights and sounds of urban life, seeing beyond the surface to understand the purpose and planning behind each space. This hands-on experience encouraged learners to think critically about how and why cities are designed the way they are, deepening their appreciation for the intentionality that shapes our urban landscapes.

GRADE 11: PAARL ROCK

Grade 11 Geography learners swapped their classroom for the great outdoors on an unforgettable visit to Paarl Rock, one of South Africa's most famous geological landmarks. As they headed upward, the girls spotted and discussed many of the landforms and processes they have studied, watching theory come to life before their eyes. From the top, the breathtaking aerial view became their open-air classroom, a place to analyse, question, and think critically about how and why these magnificent features and landscapes were formed. Between the learning moments, the group also enjoyed the rare peace and quiet that comes from standing high above the world, surrounded by nature and spectacular views.

Discovered that Cape Town has a piece of "the Berlin Wall" in the city

Physical Sciences

By Mrs Jeanne Trickett

"Science is more than a body of knowledge; it is a way of thinking, a way of sceptically interrogating the universe." ~ ***Carl Sagan*** *(Astronomer, planetary scientist and science communicator).*

In a world where AI systems can process data and generate answers at astonishing speed, the human ability to ask original questions, think critically, and grasp the physical laws of nature remains irreplaceable. The study of science cultivates this mindset – empowering learners not just to use technology, but to understand and challenge it.

Science is not merely a body of knowledge – it is a way of thinking that celebrates curiosity, imagination, and the courage to question assumptions. It is our uniquely human drive to explore, to understand, and to wonder that makes the study of science not only relevant – but fundamental to the human experience.

At Herschel, the core purpose of our Physical Sciences department is to nurture our students' curiosity and guide them into spaces of awe and wonder. The high school journey is seldom linear or smooth – it's a dynamic process of questioning, experimenting, failing, retrying, and persistently grappling with ideas until arriving at a deeper, more meaningful understanding of scientific concepts. Our students learn a lot about themselves and how to grow their mental and emotional muscles to cope with uncertainty and struggle. It is for this reason, that our Mathematics and Physical Sciences departments started the year engaging with our students and their parents in a panel interview forum, about The Learning Pit – a model conceptualised by James Nottingham that beautifully explains the messy process of deep and sustained learning. It has been a joy to witness many of our students internalise these principles – shifting their singular focus on marks to a deeper understanding of the why behind studying Mathematics and Physical Sciences. Needless to say, "The Pit" has become a humorous Herschel meme, especially when students find themselves at their most challenged and stretched. It is in these moments of grappling that growth truly happens.

To continue, scan the QR code below.

Scan to continue reading

Charting New Waters

A Year of Discovery in the Life Sciences Department

By Mrs Kerryn Crisp

This year has been my 'maiden voyage' at Herschel; a journey of learning the ropes while taking the helm of a department that has long been guided with care and excellence by those before me.

Much like Darwin setting sail on the HMS Beagle, I have spent this year observing, learning, and discovering the rich ecosystem of the Life Sciences Department. It has been both a privilege and a joy to steer through this first year alongside such engaged students and a remarkable team of colleagues.

Our Grade 8s explored DNA and variation, biodiversity, and the human respiratory system, while developing core scientific skills such as drawing, graphing, and measurement. These skills form a solid foundation for their future learning in the subject.

In Grade 9, students strengthened their understanding of the scientific method through experimental design and variable identification. They studied plant and human reproduction and the cardiovascular system, while also engaging in discussions on ethics in biology.

The Grade 10s investigated biological compounds, cells, cell division, human nutrition, and the musculoskeletal system. The first semester focused on practical investigations, building confidence in use of laboratory apparatus, data collection and measurement, while the second semester introduced the writing of an argumentative source-based essay. We also enjoyed an outing to Soetwater, near Kommetjie for an environmental study.

Our Grade 11s enjoyed a hands-on year. They explored microbiology and completed an investigation on bacterial and fungal growth. They studied the immune system and blood types with help from the South African National Blood Service and also completed a kidney dissection during their Single Focus Day.

The Grade 12s have shown exceptional dedication in mastering a demanding syllabus covering topics such DNA, genetics, reproduction, and evolution. Their curiosity and insightful questions have been a highlight of the year.

Throughout this year, I have been struck by the work ethic, curiosity, and enthusiasm of our Herschel girls. Their willingness to engage deeply with the subject and to challenge their own understanding makes teaching Life Sciences a truly rewarding experience.

Of course, no successful voyage happens alone. I have had the privilege of working with an outstanding team: Ms. Silvana Scarola, whose wisdom and kindness guide us all; Ms. Iyra Maharaj, the model of hard work and pursuit of excellence; Mr. Yaasien Kerbelker, whose calm and positive nature keeps our department balanced; Ms. Kerri-Lyn East, ever supportive and ready with laughter to lift our spirits. And, behind the scenes, Mr. Luyanda Centani, our dedicated laboratory technician, ensures that every practical is ready and runs seamlessly.

As I reflect on this first year, I do so with gratitude. During calm seas and the occasional storm, I am grateful for a steadfast crew, and for students whose curiosity keeps our sails full. Like Darwin on his voyage of discovery, I have found that every question, every challenge, and every experiment leads to new understanding. I look forward to continuing this journey of exploration in the years ahead.

Life Orientation

Mr Mike Howell

This year, the Life Orientation Department continued to guide our students through essential life skills, supported by the dedicated efforts of Mrs Basheera Lengeveldt, Ms Victoria Campbell, Ms Zikhona Bovana and Mrs Heather Goedeke.

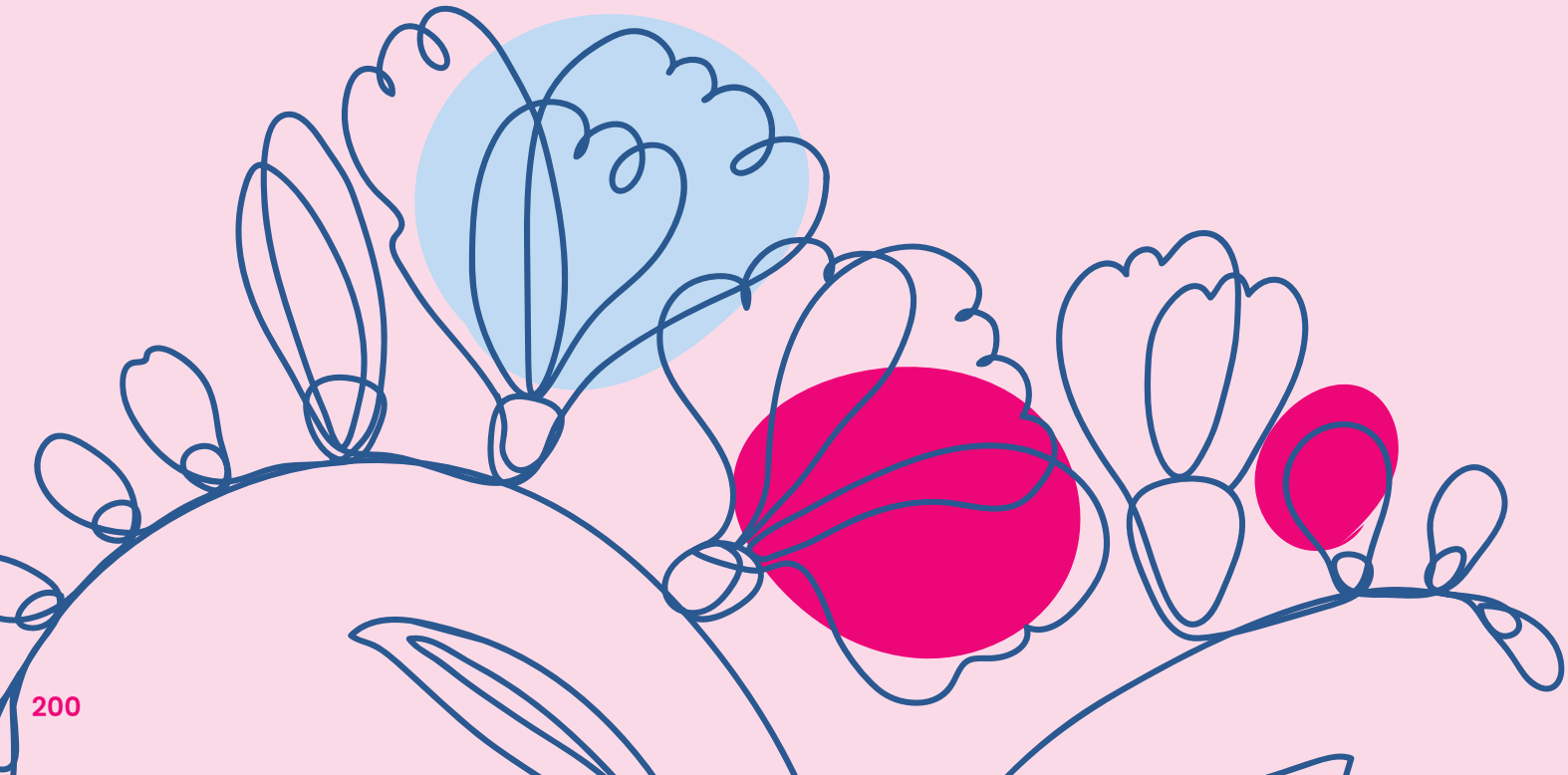
Together, we bring a range of expertise to ensure that each student's holistic well-being remains central to our programme. We remain committed to equipping our learners with the tools they need to navigate the demands of an ever-changing world. A particular highlight of the year was our Life Orientation assembly, where we were honoured to welcome Emeritus Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs, whose address challenged and inspired us deeply as he reflected on what it means to be South African and to live in a democratic, non-racial society.

GRADE 8

The transition into high school can be both exciting and overwhelming, and our Grade Eight programme is designed to build confidence and nurture a sense of belonging. Students explored important topics such as self-esteem, responsible engagement with social media, and an understanding of their rights and responsibilities within their communities. We placed particular emphasis on nation-building, helping learners recognise their role in shaping a positive future for South Africa. The dangers of addiction, along with discussions on healthy relationships, completed a curriculum that supports the social and emotional development of our youngest students.

GRADE 9

The Grade Nines engaged in a range of diverse and enriching modules, each aimed at enhancing their self-awareness and decision-making abilities. Their first module centred on emotional intelligence (EQ) and mindfulness, encouraging students to cultivate inner balance and manage stress effectively. Another key component focused on goal setting and time management, equipping them with practical skills for academic and personal success. Learners spent meaningful time developing strategies to manage their increasingly busy high school schedules. Additionally, much of term two was dedicated to preparing for their Grade 10 subject choices, a significant milestone as they begin shaping their future academic pathways.



GRADE 10

In Grade 10, students embarked on a journey of thoughtful reflection and courageous conversations, addressing topics such as human rights violations and social justice in the South African context. They engaged deeply with issues that influence our society, learning to express their viewpoints clearly and advocate for fairness. A highlight of the year was the visit from Guinness World Record holder Sarah Ferguson, who inspired the grade with stories of her record-breaking ocean swims and her passion for marine conservation. Complementing these lessons, community service and active citizenship played a vital role, with each student completing volunteer hours and reflecting on the value of giving back. These experiences continue to shape their personal values and broaden their understanding of the world beyond the classroom.

GRADE 11

As academic expectations increased in Grade 11, students were challenged to think critically and engage meaningfully with complex texts.
A significant addition to the Life Orientation programme was the introduction of the research essay. Led by Mrs Wendy Paterson, this initiative teaches students how to formulate research questions, conduct thorough investigation, and develop cohesive arguments in their writing. This task not only prepares them for the demands of tertiary study but also strengthens their critical thinking skills.

Interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence were also central to their learning, highlighting the importance of adaptability in a rapidly evolving world.

The grade further developed their career-readiness through CV writing and career research. For many, the standout experience of the year was their job shadow placement, offering valuable exposure to real-world career environments and helping them make informed decisions about their future studies and career aspirations.

GRADE 12

The Grade 12s spent much of the year preparing for their final examinations, beginning with a focus on stress management and personal branding in the first term. A key highlight was their eight-week physical education task, where students monitored their exercise routines and reflected on the impact on their overall well-being. Mental health was explored in meaningful depth through a specialised task that encouraged students to recognise its importance in their daily lives. As they approached their IEB finals, they engaged with the profound concept of Ubuntu and its relevance in a modern and changing society. Their final examination, set by the IEB, centred on this theme, and we look forward to receiving their results in January.

Herschel Mathematics Department

A Year of Numbers, New Faces, and Notable Wins

By Ms Malindri Eastes

2025 has been another lively, eventful, and memorable year for the Herschel Mathematics Department, filled with new beginnings, exciting competitions, and a few moments of unexpected... rest.

We were delighted to welcome two new staff members to our team this year: **Mr Divine Mwakonya** and **Ms Hannah Moxham**. Both have been valuable additions, bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and energy to our classrooms. Their contributions have been felt not only in lessons but also in the way they've connected with the girls and enriched our department culture.

Of course, not every moment in the Maths Department was all hard work and focused calculation. On one memorable occasion, Ms Eastes stepped out of her Grade 12 lesson for just a moment, only to return to a carefully orchestrated prank: the lights off, soft music playing, and the entire class pretending to be fast asleep. The classroom atmosphere rivalled that of a spa, proof that our mathematicians can be just as creative with mischief as they are with numbers.

Carla Lampe and Sophie Vickers

Our students once again shone in national and regional competitions. In the **SAMO Mathematics Olympiad**, several girls progressed to the second round, an impressive feat given the high standard of entries from across South Africa. We also competed in the **UCT Mathematics Competition**, where we celebrated some outstanding results: **Anotida Majirija** secured 3rd place in the Individual Junior Section, while **Carla Lampe** and **Sophie Vickers** clinched 3rd place in the Pair Section. Their achievements are a testament to the hard work, problem-solving skills, and determination of our Herschel mathematicians.

March brought with it **World Maths Day**, a fun-filled occasion where the entire school got to compete online against students from around the globe. The energy and excitement were contagious, with girls eagerly racking up points, racing against the clock, and showcasing their mental agility.

A significant milestone for the department in 2025 was the launch of **Further Studies Mathematics (FS Maths)** in Grade 9, a first for Herschel. This challenging programme gave our girls the opportunity to experience mathematics at a more advanced and demanding level, preparing them for future studies and encouraging them to think more deeply about the subject. It was immensely rewarding to watch each participant grow in confidence, resilience, and mathematical maturity.

As we close the chapter on 2025, we are already buzzing with ideas for 2026. Without revealing too much, we can promise our upcoming Grade 8s and 9s that there are a few tricks up our sleeve – so keep your calculators close and your curiosity closer.

Here's to another year of learning, laughing, and loving maths at Herschel!

Music

By Ms Petra Conrads

STRING ENSEMBLE:

Anastacia Butler

String Ensemble has been a place of growth; a place to enjoy and play my instrument in a relaxed space and meet people in different grades.

MARIMBA BAND:

Kareena Daya-Feasey

Being part of the Marimba Band has allowed me to make music with my friends, strengthen bonds with my peers and learn to just keep on playing. I am grateful that I got to play with the Marimba Band.

WIND BAND:

Jessica Walsh

My experience in music this year, especially the Wind Band, has been amazing. From making new friends to playing “Defying Gravity”, 2025 has been a blast.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE:

Sofia Sickle-Rose

Music alone is a highlight of my year since it’s fun and relaxing. Guitar Ensemble contributes to this greatly because when I’m playing music with people that is when I have the most fun.

CHOIR:

Isla Cameron

Choir has allowed me to meet new people across all the grades, push myself out of my comfort zone and learn so many new things this year. I love the inclusive, friendly community and singing with my friends. Choir is truly one of my favourite parts of the week.

ORCHESTRA:

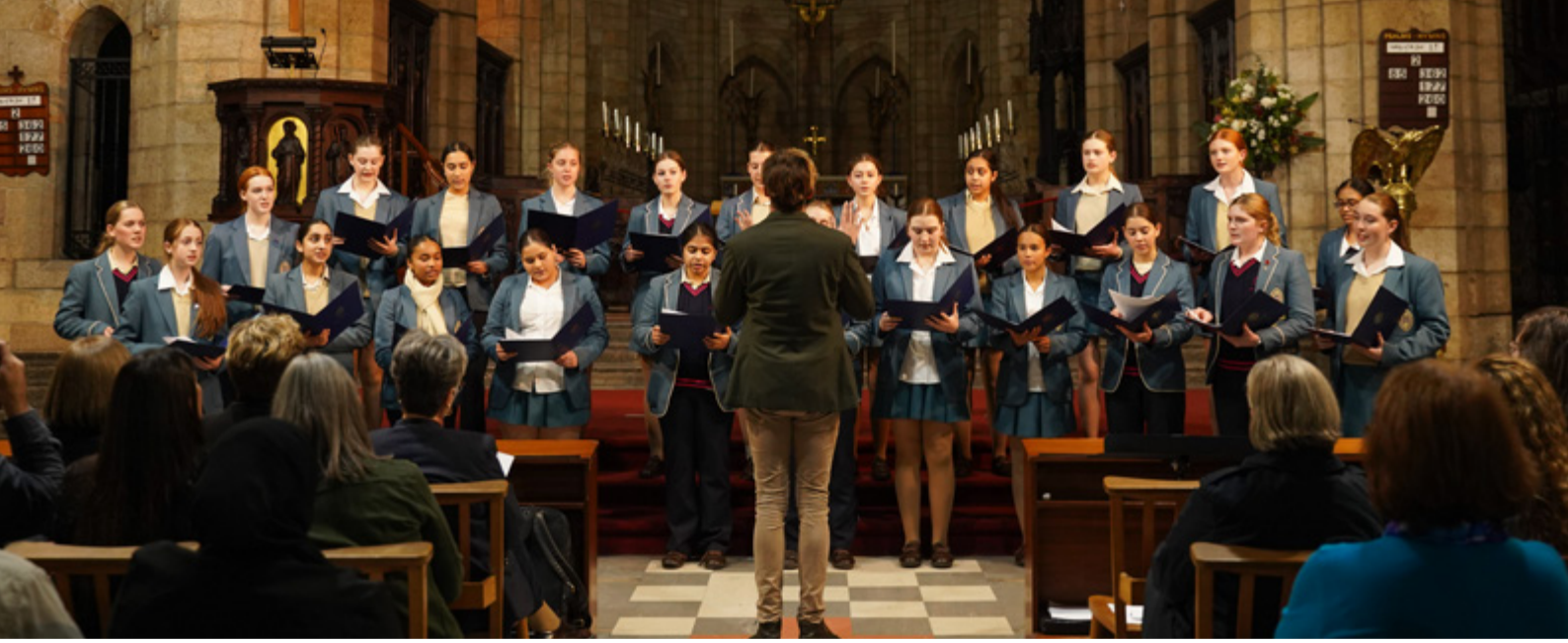
Raania Bhagoo

This year Orchestra has been more than rehearsals and performances, it has been a space that has shaped friendships, confidence, and unforgettable moments.

HIGH MAINTENANCE:

Sophia Pooley

Music at Herschel is more than just performing; it’s a community. This year in High Maintenance, I’ve met amazing people, gained experience, and had so much fun creating unique songs with that special Herschel spark. Being part of the Band has truly been an incredible and unforgettable experience!



DINALEDI:

Lihlombe Mandindi

Dinaledi is a community that combines music and a variety of cultures into one intimate space. Being a member of this community has allowed me and many others to not only be exposed to and get in touch with our cultures but celebrate them in a harmonic, accepting and open way.

FUSION:

Charlotte Jacobs

The Music Department is my happy place, and the people are like a family. Fusion is one of those spaces I love, filled with immensely talented and kind people who love sharing and creating beautiful music.

CHORALE:

Zarna Douglas

The Music Department has so many super fun and amazing opportunities for us to take part in throughout the year. It has given me a place where I can forget about all the stresses of the world and just purely enjoy myself which I am extremely grateful for.

HEADS OF MUSIC FOR 2026:

Katherine Slingers and Zoë West

The Music Department is such a vibrant, busy space full of life, laughter, and love. Music adds a type of joy and flow to life that is unattainable from anything else and the Department does such a wonderful job of delivering this to so many pupils by giving opportunities to be part of music in so many ways; from Choral groups to Orchestra to Marimba Band. The Music Department has become a second home to us and hopefully many others and we can't wait to hear some more incredible music-making next year.

HEAD OF CULTURE 2025:

Kaylin Seymour

Music at Herschel has undeniably changed my outlook on life because of the students, teachers, and memories that I have made over the last five years. The Music Department has been a source of comfort and familiarity for me; always being greeted with sounds of music and smiles from everyone.

Walking into the Music Department in Grade 8, I was overcome with the emotions of excitement as I entered the unknown; a whole new world of possibilities awaited me. From the countless practices for school productions to eisteddfods and performances, I wouldn't have wanted to do any of it differently. My teachers mentored me in more ways than just music. They showed me the kind of joy that can be found in making music together and finding peace in stepping away from the busyness of life, even just for an hour.

I feel a sense of both sadness and contentment as I leave behind me a part of my life. The Herschel Music Department will always have a piece of my heart because I found a family who showed me that we build each other up and help each other along the way in our successes. A family who showed me you can do it; scared, confident, shy, and unsure but still find meaning and growth in the imperfections. That the imperfections, in music and in life, are what make life even more meaningful and rewarding.

HEAD GIRL 2025:

Daniella Böttger

At Herschel, music was more than just a subject or an extramural after school. It became one of the most meaningful parts of my life. Music has taught me so much- it has taught me about collaboration, discipline, listening , creating, confidence , and the importance of being able to let go of fear. The Music Department is a space where creativity feels safe, and where we can all let our hair down and let go of any fear of judgement.

I have met my best friends through music- there is something so special about being able to create something together and connecting with people who share the same passion. The best memories of my Herschel journey are rooted in music, be it uncontrollable laughter in the classroom, last minute performances where everything still seems to come together, late night rehearsals, or forming friendships that will last a lifetime time.

At the heart of it all are the teachers. What makes the teachers so amazing is not how much they care about the music itself, but how much they care for us as people. Their patience, passion, support, encouragement, and excitement at our success is contagious, and it creates an environment in which music is no longer just a subject but becomes a family. After having immersed myself in this beautiful space for five years, I feel that is has enriched and shaped me in ways that will benefit me for the rest of my life, and I will always carry such a deep appreciation for the people that made my love for music come alive.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Petra Conrads

At Inkwenkwezi, we believe that Music is the heartbeat of our school. A place where pupils feel they belong, where curiosity is encouraged, and where young people are empowered to discover and express their own voice. Music has the extraordinary capacity to gather people, to build community, and to create moments of shared meaning. When pupils step into our rehearsal rooms and performance spaces, they enter an environment where individuality is welcomed and celebrated. Whether they are singing in a choir, rehearsing in an ensemble, developing their skills in instrumental lessons, or exploring new repertoire, they are invited to explore their own voice; both musically and personally.

Our commitment is to nurture confidence, creativity, and resilience. We aim to develop not only technical skill but also curiosity, courage, and compassion. Inkwenkwezi is a place where young people learn to listen deeply, collaborate openly, and express themselves boldly.

At the centre of Inkwenkwezi is a simple belief: every pupil has a voice worth hearing, and music gives them the courage to use it.

"Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable."
– Leonard Bernstein

isiXhosa

By Miss Zikhona Bovana

2025 has been a year marked by growth, collaboration, and renewed enthusiasm in the isiXhosa department.

The focus has remained on developing confident, capable pupils who are willing to engage deeply with both language and culture. Beyond mastering vocabulary and grammar, pupils have strengthened their skills in communication, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

What continues to stand out is the resilience of our pupils. They approach challenges with determination and, more importantly, with a genuine willingness to improve. Their excitement to be stretched, to overcome difficulties, and to celebrate progress has been inspiring to witness.

This year has been particularly memorable as our department deepened its international collaborations with other language departments, from celebrating Mother Tongue Day to participating in Open Day. IsiXhosa has been more of a subject; it is a department and space where identity, connection, and understanding are nurtured. It has been a privilege to guide our students as they grow not only in linguistic ability, but in confidence and appreciation for the richness of our South African context.

EVENTS

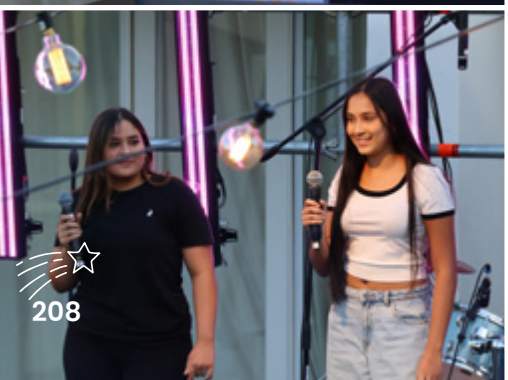
One of the highlights of 2025 was our Heritage Week fun-filled celebration, bursting with music, colour, and community spirit. Pupils embraced the week wholeheartedly, dressing up in traditional attire, sharing delicious foods, and engaging in lively cultural activities that brought the classroom to life. It was a week of pride, identity, and belonging, reminding us why language and culture are inseparable. As a department, we remain proud of the growing sense of community and appreciation for culture across the school. It is heartening to witness how language continues to connect us, bridging differences, fostering understanding, and keeping culture alive.

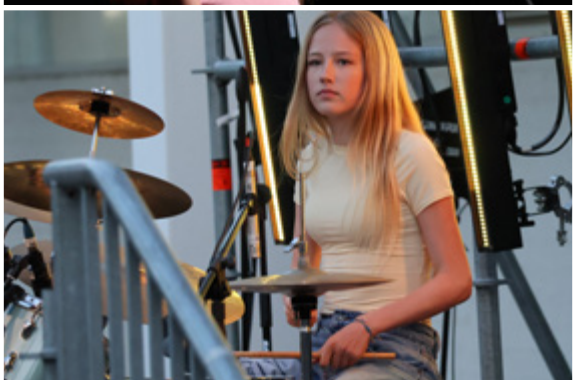
Scan for more

Culture

Herschfest

By Mrs Sarah McArthur





Eisteddfod

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

Watch videos

Culture

Chicago

By Mrs Sarah McArthur

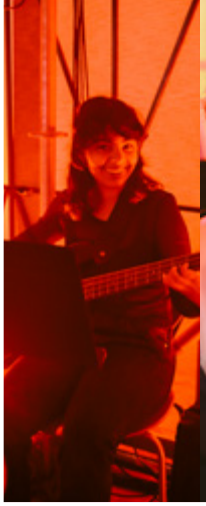
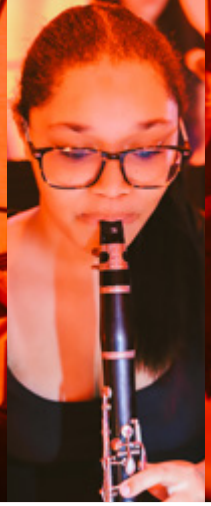
This year's production of Chicago brought exceptional talent to the Herschel stage, with a cast who approached their roles with a level of precision and presence that would not have been out of place on a professional stage.

Our double-cast leads each carved out something distinctly their own: nuanced, dynamic interpretations that made every performance fresh and compelling.

We were also pleased to collaborate with performers from Bishops Diocesan College, Wynberg Boys' High School and Westerford High School, whose contributions integrated seamlessly into the ensemble. The visual world of the show was a standout feature. Exquisite costumes, props, an immersive set design and striking technical vision transformed our auditorium into a 1920s Chicago landscape: smoky, slick, and shimmering with danger. And yes, the shoes were as fabulous as they were unforgiving, claiming the toes of even our most seasoned dancers.

The music was equally remarkable. Our live orchestra of student and staff musicians played with impressive cohesion, musicality and style, a combination of flawless musical direction and tight ensemble work that lifted every moment of the show. Their performance brought a richness and sophistication that carried the production well beyond the expectations of a typical school musical.

We are deeply proud of everyone involved – onstage, backstage, under the towering scaffolding, and behind the scenes – for crafting a production that showcased the discipline, artistry and collaborative spirit of our Herschel Arts community.

Animation Club

By Ms Jane Horsefield

Club summary from our founder (We love you Nobuntu Lingela).

Ready to turn those stick-figures into Oscar worthy actors? In Animation Club the grind never ends. No matter how experienced you are in art, there's a place for anyone to unleash their inner creativity to make their fantastical worlds come to life through animation.

TOPICS COVERED

Character design • World building • Storyboarding
Fundamental animation techniques • Figure drawing

"Seeing the sheer amount of talent in the creative members. The growth that can happen from working together has been both fun to explore and cultivate and something I look forward to walking into every session!" – Ayanda Bordiss

"When you sit down and realise that everyone is as weird as you, you'll think "FINALLY!!! I've found my people." – Soha Khan

SCAN FOR ANIMATION

SENIOR

COLLABORATIVE SPACES

Craft Club

Ayanda Bordiss

Charlotte Jacobs

Daniella Okedi

Katherine Slingers

Finding Our Voice:

Herschel Debaters Shine at Provincials and Beyond

By Mrs Denise Do 'O Filipe

"The essence of critical thinking is not just to think, but to think well – and in today's world, that has never been more necessary."

The art of debating continued to thrive at Herschel this year, fostering not only eloquence and persuasion but also the vital skill of critical thought – a cornerstone of leadership and civic engagement in our times.

In August, both our Junior and Senior Debating Teams proudly represented Herschel at the Western Cape Provincial Tournament, held at the University of Cape Town. We were thrilled to celebrate both teams for advancing to the final rounds – an incredible testament to their preparation, teamwork, and intellectual agility.

Lesedi Mabokano

Rachel Batchelor

Even more excitingly, six of our debaters were invited to the Provincial Trials, which took place on 24 August. We were so proud of them as they competed at the next level:

- **Juniors:** Rachel Batchelor, Lesedi Mabokano, Daniella Okedi (reserve)
- **Seniors:** Ayanda Bordiss, Charlotte Jacobs, Katherine Slingers

A special congratulations went to Ayanda Bordiss, whose national team, Yellowwood, made it to the finals – a truly remarkable achievement that inspired all our aspiring debaters.

Adding to a year of milestones, Herschel also hosted its first-ever Interhouse Debate, an event that sparked spirited discussion, laughter, and schoolwide enthusiasm. It was a memorable and meaningful addition to the school calendar, and we look forward to seeing this new tradition grow in the years to come.

Through every argument, rebuttal, and carefully crafted speech, our debaters proved that the power of words can change minds – and perhaps, one day, the world.

Earth Matters

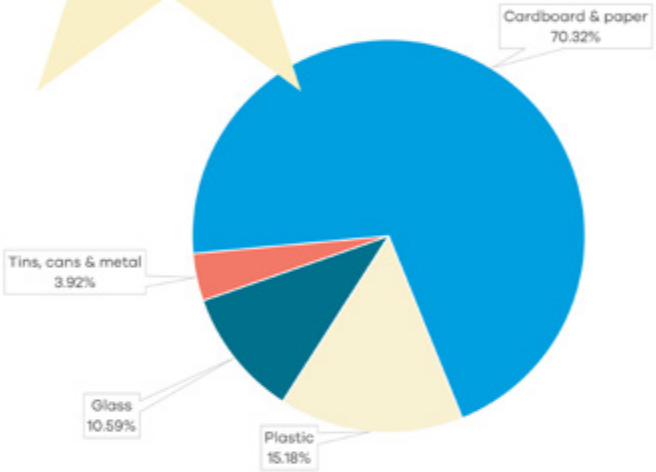
plant the seed

From January to November 2025...

4,506 kg

of recyclables were successfully diverted from landfill.

A record-breaking year of recycling!



Waste item	Total diverted (kg)
Cardboard & paper	**3168.5**
Books	114.5
Common mix	195.0
K4	1775.5
Newspaper	66.5
White paper	1017.0
Glass	**477.0**
Plastic	**684.0**
Bottle caps	9.5
CLDPE (4)	83.0
Mix LDPE (4)	163.0
PET (1)	272.0
PP (5)	40.5
Sticky plastic	7.0
HDPE (2)	109.0
Tins, cans & metal	**176.5**
Cans	66.0
Light steel	110.5
Grand Total	**4506.0**

The SDGs Herschel supports through recycling:

Together, we've kept

9,725 kg

of valuable materials in circulation since 2023.

Herschel continues to shine as a Zero Waste Champion — well done on another impactful year!

Scan here for tips, educational videos & to follow along for updates on Herschel via the monthly leaderboard!

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plant the seed

In proud partnership with

FISH (Christian Union)

By Mrs Heste Oelofse and Mrs Heather Oosthuizen

Herschel's Christian Union, FISH, stands for Faithful In Serving Him. FISH is a group of girls who have a passion to serve the Lord. Although we all meet from different walks of life we have really come to be a family who meet to encourage each other and grow in our faith together.

BROAD TOPICS TAUGHT AT FISH THIS YEAR

- **Easter** – focused on the crucifixion and what it cost Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins
- **Resurrection** – the hope it gives us
- **Gospel glimmers** – the hope of God's promises
- **Psalm 27** – how to take their fears to God in prayer and trust Him to give strength and wisdom
- **Inspiring Christians from different countries and eras** – Corrie Ten Boom (Dutch woman who was very involved in helping/hiding Jewish people during the Second World War in the Netherlands)
  CS Lewis
  Elisabeth Elliott
- **Christmas time** – making room for Jesus (in our hearts and in our lives)

*"I really enjoyed taking part in Alpha, it was such a revolutionary and transformative experience. Highly recommend!" – **Gabrielle Meyer***

*"I've learnt more about myself through Jesus and made so many new friends who make me feel so loved" – **Logan Lamb***

EVENTS

Alpha:
We hosted the Alpha-course on Monday nights during the third term. Through this course we explored the meaning of life and unpacked the basics of the Christian faith. It was a very meaningful experience and a valuable opportunity to deepen relationships for the twenty girls who attended.

Assembly messages:
FISH took a number of assemblies this year and spoke about topics such as "purpose and meaning of life", "why there is suffering in the world" and "the trap of comparison". We also had a panel discussion with guest speakers (Paul and Lee-Ann Maughan from Common Ground church in Sea Point).

*"Everyone is at a different place in their walk with God." – **Cami Fürst***

*"Pray about everything and anything. Lean on God's understanding and not your own." – **Zara Snyman***

*"I learnt how many cool and inspiring Christian figures there are (and have been)." – **Scarlett Turck***

*"I really enjoyed the Alpha sleepover." – **Justine Lucke***

*"Playing hide-and-seek in the dark at the Alpha sleepover was a favourite memory." – **Hayley Lewis***

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Happy Hands

By Mrs Elsabe Cairncross

Saint George's Home for Girls, registered under the Department of Social Development, is the only residential facility in the Wynberg District caring for girls aged 3 to 18 who have been abused, abandoned, neglected, or orphaned. It also supports those from failed foster placements, with behavioural challenges, or affected by HIV/AIDS. Within a safe and nurturing environment, trained Child and Youth Care Workers provide education, life-skills training, and emotional support to help the girls build confidence and independence. Each child receives both therapeutic and personal care, fostering a sense of family and belonging. Ultimately, the Home empowers every girl to heal, grow, and positively contribute to her community.

It is here that we, as Happy Hands, strive to make a small yet meaningful difference in the lives of these girls. Their faces light up with joy whenever the Herschel volunteers arrive at their doorstep.

During our visits, we offer the kind of individual attention and companionship they might not otherwise receive, whether it's braiding each other's hair, jumping on the trampoline, walking through the garden, playing netball, or simply helping with homework. At times, we bring gently worn clothing or surprise them with small treats, gestures that bring smiles and warmth to their day. As we leave, the bus often grows quiet, our students reflecting on the happiness they've shared, but also on the bittersweet reality that many of these girls deeply miss their parents and siblings.

Journalism Club

By Miss Alexandra Knutsen

The Herschel Headlines is a newspaper, written entirely by Herschel students, and run by the Journalism Club.

The Journalism Club is a place where students can use their talents for writing, as well as to use their voices to express ideas, creativity, and issues inside and outside of the Herschel community, with article topics ranging from current events, to pop culture, to articles about Herschel life.

*"Journalism club is important because it teaches students how to express their own voices through their writing. This is becoming an extremely useful skill in a world where we value free speech so much." – **Chloe Smith***

*"Journalism club helped me improve my writing skills, as well as exposed me to different perspectives from all the other writers involved in the Herschel Headlines." – **Alex Knutsen***

*"Journalism club is an opportunity to express yourself with your writing and learn more about interesting topics and the different perspectives on them." – **Gabriella Efstathiou***

*"Journalism is crucial at Herschel if we want to teach students about the world around them while inspiring them to do something about it." – **Katherine Slingers***

*"Its taught me the importance of speaking up and voicing your opinion because it often has a greater impact than what you realise." – **Emily Dickinson***

Scan for more

MSA
The Herschel Muslim Students' Association

By Mr Yassien Kerbelker

The Herschel Muslim Students' Association (MSA) offers a safe space for Muslim students and provides a platform for students of all faiths to engage in enlightening conversations about Islam.

It encourages curiosity and learning, while aiming to foster a strong sense of belonging for all its members. Despite having only been founded a few years ago, the MSA has managed to establish a strong presence within the school through its various fundraiser events, outreach projects and assembly presentations.

The MSA is deeply committed to serving the broader community. This year, the Herschel MSA held a Games Night in collaboration with the SACS MSA, hosting 40 children and staff members from Vision Child and Youth Care Centre. We set up different activity stations for everyone to join in on, such as board games, cookie-decorating and face painting, while also providing food and drinks. It was a fun, interactive event that helped build a strong sense of community.

During the holy month of Ramadan, the MSA held an Iftar Evening, hosting approximately 125 students and teachers from over 8 different schools. Together everyone shared in the blessings of breaking the fast at sunset with friends and family. We also completed a Khatam Al-Quran, a complete recitation of the Holy Quran.

The MSA hosted bake sales to help fundraise for past and upcoming events. We also engaged in a variety of activities during our weekly meetings. These ranged from educational discussions and initiative-planning to trivia quizzes and inter-grade bonding.
The Herschel Muslim Students' Association has had a successful year of outreach and social engagement, and we look forward to continuing our efforts Insha Allah (God Willing)

Saara Moosa – Head of MSA (2025-2026)

Herschel Pride Club

Building Community and Belonging

By Ms Malindri Eastes, Katherine Slingers and Quillian Vandeyar

The Herschel Pride Club set out in 2025 with one big goal: to foster a sense of community. It's important to us that everyone at Herschel feels they belong, that they have a place to be themselves, to be supported, and to find friends who truly understand them.

This year, every event we hosted was designed to bring people together and to celebrate connection in all its forms.

In Term 1, we kicked off the year with a Barbie Movie Night open to all schools, with proceeds donated to the Triangle Project, a non-profit organisation that supports and uplifts queer communities through healthcare, education, and advocacy. We watched Barbie and the Diamond Castle, a nostalgic classic that brought smiles and laughter to everyone. It was a fun, heartwarming evening that sparked many new friendships and set the tone for the rest of the year.

Our Pride Club was also invited to a social hosted by Wynberg Girls' High School, where we made friendship necklaces, sang karaoke, and met incredible people from other schools. Collaboration is one of our core values, and connecting with students beyond Herschel has been a highlight of the year. In October, we were thrilled to attend Springfield's Pride Picnic in celebration of South African Pride Month, another joyful and affirming space for connection.

One of our favourite events was the Pride Quiz Afternoon, open to everyone. Alongside the trivia, we hosted a costume competition, the winner proudly took home a golden rubber duck! The quiz mixed questions on queer activism, pop culture, and general knowledge, and of course, no Herschel event would be complete without plenty of pizza.

School life can be busy and stressful, so we aim for Pride Club to be more than just a safe space, it's a place to relax, laugh, and truly be yourself. Whether you're looking for community, conversation, or just some fun, our doors are always open.

It's been a year full of connection, creativity, and celebration. We're so proud of what the Herschel Pride Club has achieved in 2025, and we can't wait to make next year even brighter.

Red Nose Eagle Club

By Mrs Susy Macfarlane

"Now that we have learned to fly the air like birds, swim under water like fish, we lack one thing – to learn to live on earth as human beings." – George Bernard Shaw

See the children as children, not as their illness or injury or a sick child and form a connection with the little human – they too just want to be seen and loved.– Anastácia Butler

The best thing that I learnt from the children was to let go. Children live in the moment, without worrying about the future or the past. This makes you more appreciative about everyday life. – Michelle Parasnath

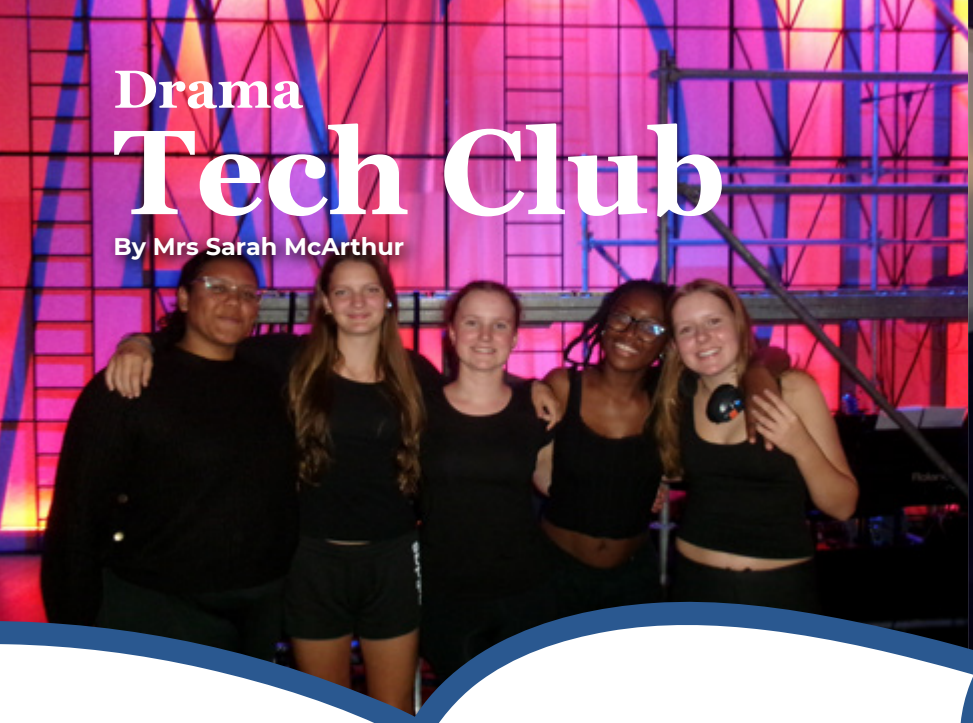
Madame told me once that she can feel everything that other people feel. She has a big heart that cares deeply for every person. Her strength is empathy, and she doesn't just embody that when connecting with the children at St Josephs, she does it with us students too. – Nathalie Heyns

Being apart of this club has taught me important life lessons; like being able to understand my feelings, read body language and act the best way in hard situations. Going on the outings not only gave me a space to rewind but also allowed me to share smiles and let the children have a good afternoon.– Emily Stodel

Drama

Tech Club

By Mrs Sarah McArthur



If you heard frantic whispers in the wings, saw a torch beam zig-zag through the darkness, or wondered why a group of girls always seemed to be sprinting past with wigs, mic tape and a look of serene panic... that was Tech Club.

This year our brilliant crew cut their teeth backstage on Chicago, mastering everything from mad quick changes and near-miss collisions in the dark to the fine art of dressing a wig under pressure. They learned how to tape a mic onto even the most excitable actress (a true superpower), all while radiating an almost supernatural calm in the middle of absolute theatrical bedlam. Somewhere in between the chaos, they bonded, laughed, solved crises, and shouldered superhuman levels of responsibility with grace.

As if that wasn't enough, they then took full command of lighting and sound for the Inter-House plays – a heroic feat that involved upskilling themselves at speed, managing cues like seasoned pros, and trying desperately to stay focused while their slightly unhinged drama teachers unravelled on the floor of the lighting box. Miraculously, nobody vomited... this year. A true triumph for all involved.

Tech Club: cool heads, quick hands, and the unsung magicians who make the magic happen.

The Baking Business

By Mrs Brigitte Cass

A small but passionate group of students meets weekly in the Consumer Studies Laboratory to experiment with new recipes and whip up a delightful array of baked goods!

This year, the club tried many new ideas including moulded chocolates and mug cakes. Among the scrumptious favourite treats that were made this year were, crunchies, chocolate chip cookies, and pancakes, all infused with creativity and care.

One of our highlights this year was a bake sale we help to raise funds for Fikilela Child and Youth Care Centre.

"Beyond expanding our baking knowledge and discovering handy tips and tricks, we've learned the value of teamwork and the art of improvising when things don't go as planned – even if our improvisations aren't always spot on! One crucial lesson we've learned the hard way is that accurate measuring is a must; a little too much of this or not enough of that can lead to unexpected results. But hey, that's all part of the fun in our baking adventures!"

ART OF SCRUMPTIOUSNESS

The Cultural Exchange

By Mrs Michelle Seymour

Hola, Coucou, Guten Morgen, Hi – are just some of the greetings our exchange pupils used everyday while they were away this year.

Exchanges ranging from 3-8 weeks, family hosted or boarding, means that our pupils are given an immersive experience in both language and culture. Our new partner schools in Dinslaken, Angers and Aviles brought a new flavour to exchange this year and pupils had a lot to say about the food.

"All the bread and pastries are amazing but without a doubt I think my favourite has been this sort of spread called rillettes. We have it before dinner almost every night. You literally just cut up some baguette, spread it on and it's just amazing!"

"Having 3 very formal meals. I have really enjoyed this. They do not seem to snack here in France, however they have 3 'big' meals. I enjoy this as it forces you to sit down not only just in the evening to have a break from what you are doing to eat."

"I tried 2 German desserts, Quarkbällchen and Apfelstrudel crumble before driving to Münsterland. We had ice cream and I tried Lahmacun, a traditional Turkish pizza often found in Germany."

"Meals and meal times are very different in Spain. Breakfast isn't a big deal - Helena just has hot chocolate for breakfast or no breakfast at all. School lunch also isn't a lot – you just buy a sandwich from the tuck shop for the entire school day. However, then at 3:30ish you have a really big lunch, which I'm not used to. Then we eat dinner at 9:30 – so late! But I've adjusted well."

Exchange offers so many opportunities and often our pupils find it difficult to identify their best experience.

"I've had so many amazing experiences that it's so hard to choose. I think definitely my two Paris trips will be a major highlight but the school outings, especially the one to Saint Michelle and Saint Marlo would also be one of my favourite experiences, but really, I've had so many it's so hard to pick."

"I got to see, do, and experience so much – one of the major highlights was watching a professional basketball match between Girona and Barcelona! It was the first stadium basketball game I've ever been to, and it was absolutely exhilarating."

"When I went to my exchange partner's house this past weekend, her parents took her and I to see the musical Six at one of the West End Theatres in London. It was such an amazing and unforgettable show!"

"My favourite experience so far has been the weekend that I spent going around London. I got to experience the Trooping of Colours for the king's birthday as well as some of the famous sights such as Big Ben, London Eye, Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace. I also got the opportunity to watch Mamma Mia on the West End which was an amazing and memorable experience. On the Sunday we went on a speed boat down the River Thames as well as shopping, which I really enjoyed."

"I've really enjoyed all of the old, beautiful towns as a whole. We have visited Xanton, Dinslaken, Raesfeld and Maastricht in the Netherlands. I have loved getting to see the quaint Medieval architecture."

"My host family took me to Münsterland, one of the 5 regions within the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. We first visited Schloss Nordkirchen, an old castle in the town of Nordkirchen. There, we walked around exploring churches and shops."

"We have been to two fire work shows and we are planning on going to a concert and watching the SA vs Wales rugby match."

Exchange exposes our pupils to different types of schools and subjects often opening doors they never new were shut.

"I have really enjoyed the classes! In mirroring my exchange partner's timetable, I have surprisingly found that I am doing a lot of the same subjects I already take at Herschel which has been very interesting to see what the curriculum for certain subjects is like in different schools and seeing how things can be taught differently. The one subject my exchange partner does that I do not do at Herschel is drama (which has been very fun and interesting as it is not a culture I have taken as a subject before)."

The one certainty that every exchange pupil will have is that they will be out of their comfort zones and all that is familiar. Pupils must dig deep and rise to the challenge of what it means to be independent and adaptable.

"I have loved this experience so much and I am so sad that it is coming to an end, but I am so excited to come home to see all my friends and family. Coming to France and experiencing something completely new has been a truly eye-opening experience that I have learned a lot from. I have changed and grown in a lot of different ways, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to do so."

"Really it has been so unforgettable, unreal and one of the biggest, most important/significant experiences of my life."

"Something else is also having a lot of freedom and using public transportation and walking a lot. I have enjoyed this as it is a change to the way of getting around and it is a new experience. It is also nice to be able to walk around the city as opposed to driving."

Our visiting exchange pupils participate in a curated programme during their time at Herschel. They learn Xhosa and Afrikaans greetings, try their hand at a tune or two on the iconic marimba, and gain insight into our heritage. For one or two days a week, they are guided through the city and beyond, visiting museums and heritage sites, where they develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be South African. Well done to the Herschel Cultural Exchange Pupils of 2025 and their families ! You have made us proud and established Herschel Girls' School and Cape Town as a primary exchange and holiday destination.

Robben Island Museum • World Heritage Site

HIGHBROW GAMEPLAN
SELFMADE

Borneo

By Ms Tracy Rousseau and Mrs Hesté Oelofse

19 pupils, 2 teachers, and 1 expedition leader set off on an amazing adventure to Borneo. The aim was to explore a new country and culture by immersing ourselves in it, test ourselves and develop physically, emotionally and mentally...and have fun doing it!

This experience was so humbling and challenged each and every person in so many ways, but all of them positive. We learnt so much about ourselves, each other, and beautiful Borneo. The girls showed resilience, empathy, teamwork, and truly lived the school's tagline "learning to make a difference".

We experienced some amazing things on the trip:

KOPEL PROJECT

We had the honour of engaging with the local community around the Kopel project – a community based co-operative seeking to conserve the primary forests and their eco-system. We lived in a hammock camp on the banks of the Kinabatangan river (only accessible via a boat). Our meals were cooked daily by local community members and we learnt all about traditional flavours and foods. While at Kopel we all got involved in valuable initiatives to help the co-operative: tree maintenance, using machetes to remove vegetation negatively impacting trees; collecting small trees and seeds from the middle of the forests that we would later propagate in preparation for planting when they are stable; site preparation and planting, using machetes to remove alien vegetation from a space identified by the community, clearing the trees and other plants and then digging the holes and planting new indigenous trees that will help restore the primary forest and feed the wildlife. In true girl power, our team planted 126 trees – astounding the locals who were assisting and teaching us as this was the most a school had done.

SEPILOK

We visited the orangutan sanctuary, Sun bear rehabilitation centre, and the rain forest discovery centre with spectacular skywalks extending high into the trees.

TREKKING IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FORESTS

We got to experience trekking in a primary forest near the Kopel project site for a morning – getting to see one of the oldest trees in the area, and reaching various check points and being amazed by how many shades of green there really are. Later in the trip, we set off for a two day trekking in the Kiulu jungle, up some steep inclines and crossing flowing rivers. We then arrived at a very primitive camp site where the guides had to cut away bushes and we all had to try set up hammocks for another night in the outdoors. With extreme heavy rain starting from around midnight we had to cut this part of the expedition short and trek out to higher ground at around 5am...the jungle experiences were so varied from the intense heat at Kopel to the drenching rain at Kiulu.

SNORKELLING IN KOTA KINABALU

We got to experience a little of the relaxing part of Borneo on our last day in country by going snorkelling between the many islands surrounding Kota Kinabalu. This was an awesome experience for all and a welcome cool from the heat.

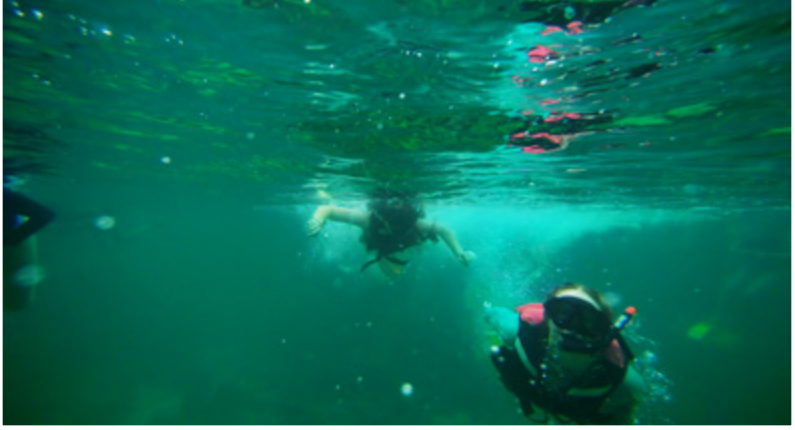
EXPLORING SINGAPORE

On our return flight we had a long layover in Singapore and took the opportunity to visit the Gardens on the Bay and the Helix bridge.

BORNEAN SUN BEAR
CONSERVATION CENTRE

VIBES

TOP OF
B.MENSULI
CHECK POINT
HORNBILL
TREE
PLANTING



Leaders

FRONT ROW:

Emma McGaw, Lauren Sherwood, Julia Turck, Eryn Van Vollenhoven, Daniella Böttger, Aasiyah Bailey, Jordan Gossman, Reece Corker, Zeah Douglas

MIDDLE ROW:

Emma Deneys, Kaylin Seymour, Micah Engel, Hannah Henderson, Isabella Lindsay, Kelly Cadiz, Julia Komninos

BACK ROW:

Madison Franks, Sophie Vickers, Grace Sales, Isabella Weir-Smith, Zara Böttger

SRC

FRONT ROW:

Maaryah Brey, Christy Braune, Katherine Slingers, Alexa Knutsen, Reece Corker, Zaara Dalwai, Chloe Bassingthwaighte, Faith van Wyk, Farah Parker, Saara Moosa

MIDDLE ROW:

Aisha Mia, Iman Parker, Georgia Böttger, Anemaé Smith, Logan Lamb, Gemma MacGregor, Daniella Böttger, Gabriella Efstathiou, Carla Plenge-Mantell, Jessica Walsh

BACK ROW:

Aasiyah Bailey, Kirsty Buissinne, Jade Van Vollenhoven, Eryn Van Vollenhoven, Tess Anderson, Gabrielle Meyer, Sophie Vickers, Frances Leinberger

Carter House

A Year of Connection, Creativity, and Spirit

By Mrs Nuraan Barendse

We began the year with a warm and enthusiastic welcome to our new Grade Eights, who settled in with such ease and grace and quickly became part of Carter. From the very first week, their energy and openness reflected the Carter spirit — kind, brave, and always ready to get involved.

Beyond competitions and events, the real joy offered by the house system is the warmth that fills our common spaces — the laughter in tutor classes shared in passing, and the way pupils look out for one another. The houses offer a home within the school, where individuality is celebrated and everyone belongs.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our tutors, whose care, dedication, and daily guidance make this nurturing environment possible. Their support ensures that every girl feels valued, seen and understood. Another thank you goes to our 2025 house leaders: Isabella Weir-Smith, Emma Deneys and Julia Komninos, for their joyful and authentic leadership this year. We wish all our Carter Matrics all the very best as they start the next chapter of their lives!

As we reflect on a year rich with connection, creativity, and accomplishment, one thing is clear: Carter House continues to shine in spirit, compassion, and community.

Jagger House

By Ms Hanneka de Bruijn

"Happy" and "successful" are two words that spring to mind if we look back on our 2025 year. We can define success by looking at all we won: The dance-off routine in December 2024, the Interhouse Gala, Interhouse Singing and Eisteddfod (as well as many individual accolades in the Interhouse Dancing and House Plays) or we can define the success in the happy togetherness Jagger House enjoyed in 2025. I prefer the second definition. A huge thank you goes to Zeah Douglas, Jordan Gossman and Hannah Henderson, as well as the whole Jagger Matric group: you were generous leaders and wonderful role models to our house! We wish Tess Anderson, Sammy Miller and Lilitha Ncikita, as well as the current Grade Elevens, all the best as they continue to lead our house in 2026. They have already demonstrated initiative and a strong sense of fun.

Merriman House

House Spirit, Friendship, and Memories: The Heart of Merriman School Life

By Mrs Victoria Campbell

School is more than classrooms and textbooks – it's a place where bonds are formed, challenges are faced together, and memories are made that last a lifetime. At the center of this experience is your allocated house and the daily role it plays in your school life. Merriman prides itself in showing up, caring about others and having fun.

Our house spirit teaches us that success is rarely a solo journey. Whether it is on the sports field, during a community project, or in the interhouse play, working together reminds us that every individual brings something unique to the table. When we cheer for each other, share responsibilities, and celebrate victories – big or small – we learn the true meaning of unity.

Alongside house spirit comes friendship, the thread that ties our school days together. Friends are the ones who stand by us during exams, laugh with us at break, and encourage us when things get tough. These relationships shape who we are and remind us that support and kindness can make any challenge easier to overcome. The importance of our daily tutor allows our friendships to cross grade barriers and make lasting connections.

And then there are the memories – those snapshots of joy that stay with us forever. From the excitement of the first day to the bittersweet feeling of valedictory, every moment becomes part of a story we'll cherish for years to come. These memories aren't just about events; they're about the people who made them special.

A huge thank you to our house leaders, Maddy, Zara and Grace who demonstrated kindness and dedication throughout the year. A special thank you, as well, to our tutors and their tutor group leaders that kept these threads going on a daily basis. Your involvement and care are greatly appreciated.

As we move forward, let us carry these lessons with us: work together, value friendships, and treasure every memory. Because in the end, these are the things that make school life unforgettable.

Rolt House

By Mrs Denise Do 'O Filipe

Stepping into the role of House Director for Rolt this year has felt a bit like diving into the deep end at the Interhouse Gala – exciting, slightly terrifying, and ultimately incredibly energising. Fortunately, unlike my swimming technique, the support I've received has been nothing short of Olympic-level.

Our House Leaders have been fountains of wisdom, organisation, and good humour, guiding both the girls and their new House Director with grace and determination. Their enthusiasm has kept our House spirit not only alive but doing backflips. Our tutor teachers, too, have been extraordinary – kind, attentive, and consistently invested in the wellbeing of every Rolt girl. I've often wondered how they manage to juggle so many needs so calmly; if there were medals for pastoral care, they would sweep the podium.

A heartfelt thank you must also go to our Deputy House Directors, whose commitment and hard work have made my transition into the role feel smooth, supported, and even fun. They are the quiet engines behind so much of what makes Rolt run.

This year's achievements have made us beam with pride. Our electric spirit at the Interhouse Swimming Gala was unmistakable (even if some of us forgot to pack goggles). Our triumph in the Interhouse Dance – along with securing Best Senior Dancer – was a standout moment, proving yet again that Rolt girls can move with both style and ferocity. And our drama production? A masterclass in creativity, courage, and collective effort.

As we look ahead, the prospect of working with our newly appointed 2026 leaders fills me with genuine excitement. Their fresh ideas and energy promise an inspiring year ahead.

Finally, to the Rolt parents: thank you for your warm welcome, encouragement, and unwavering support. You are very much part of the heart of our House.

"Alone we are strong, but together we are unstoppable – and in Rolt, we prove that every single day."

Summer House Day

The buzz of excitement was impossible to miss as our pupils gathered at school for our annual Summer House Day.

The event began with a variety of energetic and light-hearted challenges designed to bring tutor groups together. From the grit of tug-of-war to the quick thinking required in 30 Seconds, and from obstacle relays to water-based bucket challenges, pupils were tested both physically and mentally as they rotated from station to station.

What made the day so special was not just the competition, but the collaboration. Pupils cheered each other on, shared winning strategies, and discovered the joy of working towards a common goal. The sense of camaraderie was intense as groups found that success came not from individual talent alone, but from supporting one another and embracing their collective strengths.

SPIRIT OF UNITY

Many studies have noted that participating in group activities enhances communication, improves problem-solving skills, and strengthens social bonds. Research also highlights that teamwork builds resilience (Forsyth, 2018). When pupils encounter setbacks (i.e. a bucket of water on the head, a missed opportunity OR five incorrect quiz answers in a row!), they are more likely to persevere with the encouragement of their peers. Events like Summer House Day embody these benefits, creating opportunities for our pupils to practice leadership, trust, and cooperation in ways that extend beyond the classroom.

The afternoon culminated in the annual swimming gala, where Rolt, Merriman, Carter and Jagger houses competed with passion and determination. The poolside atmosphere was electric, with chants and cheers echoing across the grounds. While races were won and trophies awarded, the true victory lay in the spirit of unity and friendship that had grown stronger throughout the day. A warm congratulations to Jagger House on winning the overall Gala trophy and to Merriman House for winning the Spirit Cup.

Summer House Day was about more than games and gala results; it was a celebration of what we achieve together. As pupils left the poolside, tired but smiling, it was clear that the lessons (and memories) of teamwork, perseverance, and shared joy would last far longer than the summer sun.

Interhouse Singing and Dance

A night of embracing voices and dancing…a first at Herschel…the combining of the Interhouse Singing and Interhouse Dance events into one spectacular evening. This combined event allowed for the showcasing of the exceptional dancers at Herschel, together with our annual singing competition in a House event full of fun.

Interhouse singing comprised of a set song sung by all Houses and then a chosen song from each House.

Set Song: *Don't stop believin' – Journey*
This song is a message of hope, resilience and holding onto dreams that has resonated with people of all ages for decades. With its iconic melody and universal lyrics, the song invites each listener to find strength in their own journey, making it a powerful symbol of how shared stories and emotions can unite people of different ages through a common and uplifting spirit.

Staff Band: Johan Swanepoel, Daniel Nambassi, Vickus Horne, Richard Brokensha

CHOSEN SONGS:

CARTER: *Higher Love – Kygo and Whitney Houston*
A song that captures the heart of what it means to embrace each other – lifting one another up, finding strength in unity, and spreading hope through music. As a House we've come together with open hearts and shared voices, to choose connection, collaboration and a higher love – **Isabella Weir-Smith, Carter House Head**

JAGGER: *Don't dream its over – Crowded House*
This song is a gentle yet powerful reminder to stay strong and hold on to what truly matters. Its lyrics speak of resilience and connection which are the qualities we all need from time to time. It's uplifting tone combined with its heartfelt lyrics make it easy for people to connect with and sing with meaning – **Zeah Douglas, Jagger House Head**

MERRIMAN: *Somebody to love – Queen*
Merriman wanted to choose an artist who has left and undeniable legacy, and we believe Freddie Mercury has done exactly this. An artist with an unparallelled vocal range and exceptional songwriting skills and along with that unwavering confidence, daring to be different and unique. He lived the mantra of the importance of being yourself and that believing in yourself is enough – **Madison Franks, Merriman House Head**

ROLT: *Yellow – Coldplay*
This timeless song truly captures the power of unity and love. This song reflects Rolt's legacy of enthusiasm and loyalty. Yellow is a song that is full of heart and inspires us to remember the legacy of Rolt House – **Lauren Sherwood, Rolt House Head**

DANCE:

Special collaboration from the Spanish Dancing team and Heat Revolution to Waka Waka – Ndlovu Youth Choir
Spanish dancers: Christina, Teagan, Layyah
Heat Revolution: Inganathi, Lisakhanya, Ayana, Sisipho, Sibulele

CARTER:
Senior Dance: Tessa, Sarah B, Sarah H
Mixed Dance: Tessa, Sarah B, Sarah H, Isabella, Julia, Emma, Anna vA, Hana, Charlotte, Holly, Ruby, Anna B, Leah, Azari

JAGGER:
Senior Dance: Rebecca, Carla, Grace
Mixed Dance: Rebecca, Carla, Grace, Zeah, Rana, Charlize, Riley, Manilla, Lucy, Ayana, Charlotte, Georgina

MERRIMAN:
Senior Dance: Nicole, Rebecca, Rania
Mixed Dance: Nicole, Rebecca, Fatima, Lusinda, Rania, Zaara, Jenna, Charlotte, Summer, Nsovo, Michella, Kirsty, Kristina

ROLT:
Senior Dance: Mika, Chloe
Mixed Dance: Luca Graaf, Gabriella, Mika, Gabriella, Chloe, Billie, Arya, Katie, Leola

Interhouse Plays

Based on the theme "lights, camera, embrace" the houses, led by the Grade Elevens, took on the daunting task of writing scripts, organising auditions and rehearsals, directing and acting in the plays.

This is a wonderfully collaborative event between the different grades, and rehearsals are often marked by lots of fun and laughter, eating together and experiencing "opening night" together. Many great memories are made in this time. Hearty congratulations to Carter House, who produced the winning play, and all the individuals from the four houses who received awards for different roles they played in this event.

Mandela Day

On Thursday 24 July the whole Senior School paused for 67 minutes as we gathered in our Houses to honour Mandela Day and work on different projects.

Carter House put together toiletries packs and made sandwiches, which were donated to Where Rainbows Meet in Vrygrond.

Jagger House again took on the task of filling about 250 jars (Jagger Jars of Hope) with dry soup ingredients, which were also taken to Where Rainbows Meet in Vrygrond. Much fun was had as tutor groups collectively filled their jars, exchanged ingredients with other tutor groups, made labels and decorated the jars.

Merriman House displayed creative energy as they made sensory toys, like stress balls and coloured rice, as well as playdough mats for the Mary Kihn School. Rolt House set about making many, many sandwiches which were donated to Ladles of Love.

This initiative, where the whole school takes time to do concrete things for others in our Cape Town community remains an important part of our “whole person” education programme.

Celebrating the Spirit of Community:

End-of-Year Festivities

The final days of the academic year are always filled with a unique blend of excitement, reflection and gratitude, and this year's End-of-Year Celebration Days on 2 and 3 December 2025 were no exception.

From the moment the bell rang early on Tuesday morning, the school community came together to mark the close of a busy and rewarding year in a way that truly reflected the spirit of our school: collaborative, compassionate and full of joy.

The celebrations began on 2 December with registration in tutor groups before the entire school gathered in the Mary Jagger Hall for a meaningful service project: packing Santa Shoeboxes. Working across 36 packing stations, students enthusiastically organised and assembled gift boxes that will bring joy to children less fortunate during the festive season. The activity was a powerful reminder that the end of the school year is not only a time for celebration, but also an opportunity to give back to the broader community. The energy in the hall was palpable as girls worked together, laughing, organising supplies and carefully packing boxes destined to make someone's holiday brighter.

Following this act of generosity, the school paused for a more reflective moment as tutor groups gathered to say farewell to tutors who would be leaving the school. These small gatherings allowed students to express their appreciation for the guidance and care they had received throughout the year. Many girls also took the opportunity to clear out lockers and share personal "end-of-year" moments with their tutor groups, marking the closing of one chapter before the holidays began.

After a well-earned break, the focus of the morning shifted to House spirit and friendly competition. Each of the four Houses – Rolt, Merriman, Jagger and Carter – hosted activities designed to foster teamwork,

creativity and a healthy dose of fun. Students rotated through stations, ensuring that every girl had the opportunity to participate in a variety of challenges.

At Rolt House, teams gathered around tables filled with word puzzles and picture scrambles. The activity demanded collaboration and quick thinking as groups worked together to decipher clues and solve the challenges before them. Meanwhile, Merriman House embraced classic outdoor fun with a series of nostalgic "kids' games". The three-legged races, wheelbarrow challenges, egg-and-spoon relays and sack races brought out both competitive spirit and plenty of laughter as teams cheered one another on.

On the Head's Lawn, Jagger House hosted a lively "Taskmaster-style" activity titled Silent Symphony. Students moved through a series of stations where creativity and communication were key. The unique twist of silent coordination made for both amusing and memorable moments as teams attempted to work together without speaking.

Not to be outdone, Carter House brought the energy with fast-paced physical games, including spirited rounds of dodgeball on the netball courts. The atmosphere was electric as girls rallied behind their teams, demonstrating determination, agility and plenty of House pride.

The celebrations continued on 3 December, when the school community gathered once again for a day dedicated to creativity, performance and festive cheer. A highlight of the morning was the Upcycling Gift Market, where students showcased imaginative gifts crafted from recycled or repurposed materials. From handmade decorations to inventive keepsakes, the initiative celebrated both sustainability and creativity, with many girls proudly sharing their unique creations with peers.

Grade 8

Camp at Bonamanzi Adventures

By Miss Zikhona Bovana and Mrs Laura-Jo Smith

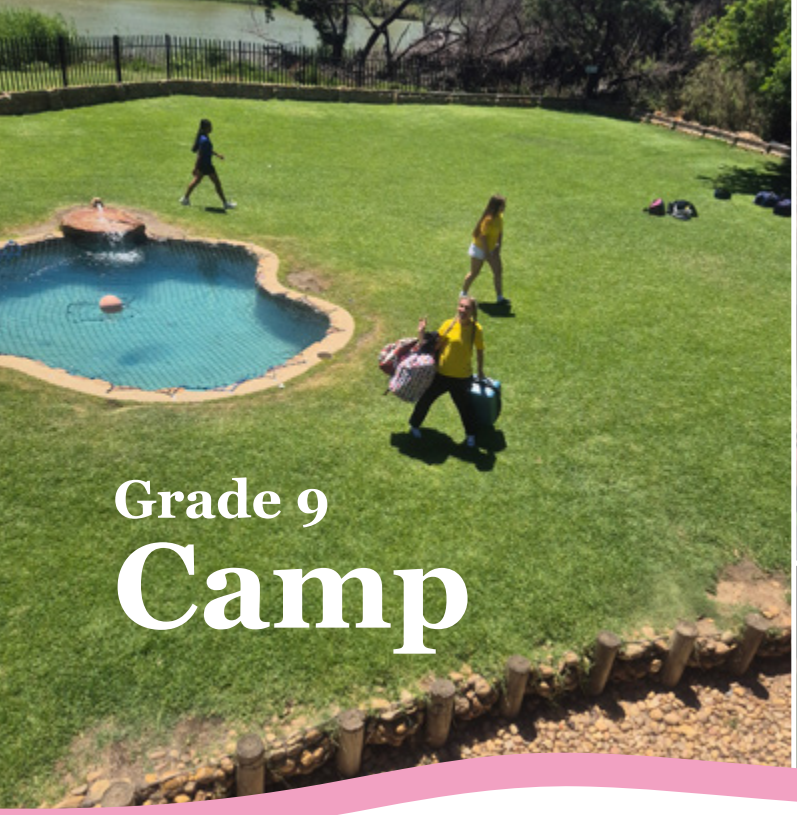
At the end of February, our Grade 8s set off on a journey that was more than just a camp; it was an escape, a discovery, and a celebration of new beginnings.

The road carried us from the city through the Huguenot Tunnel and into the serene beauty of Bonamanzi Adventures, where laughter and song echoed from the buses long before we arrived.

Days were filled with adventure; from stargazing under skies unspoiled by city lights, river rafting that tested our courage and strengthened the spirit of teamwork, to night hikes that taught us to trust one another in the dark. Team-building games reminded us that we are stronger together, that every step forward is much easier when taken together.

Nights brought their own magic. We fell asleep to the gentle rush of the river in front of the campsite and the songs of night bugs, whether in tents beneath the stars or in the comfort of the dorms. The heat of the day could not dampen our spirits, for every moment was rich with laughter, challenge, and connection.

We returned from Bonamanzi Adventures in high spirits, carrying with us the quiet lessons learned, and the unforgettable memories shared. For many, these moments will become stepping stones, shaping not only friendships but also the women these girls are becoming.



Grade 9
Camp

Adventure, Laughter, and Lasting Bonds

By Ms Ncita Koopman and Mrs Alexandra Himunchil

From 24 to 26 November, our Grade Nine students embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Bonamanzi Adventures, set along the beautiful banks of the Breede River. The camp offered the perfect blend of excitement, teamwork, and personal growth.

The highlight of the experience was undoubtedly the river rafting. They paddled through calm stretches and lively rapids, learning to trust one another, communicate clearly, and work as a team—often through fits of laughter. The shared thrill of the games and adventure created memories that will last well beyond Grade Nine.

Equally special was the sisterhood bonding that blossomed throughout the camp. Whether sitting around the fire, tackling challenges together, or simply enjoying the natural surroundings, the girls strengthened friendships and built new connections in a warm, supportive environment.

Camp wasn't just a getaway. It was a celebration of courage, community, and the joyful spirit of our Grade Nine students.

Grade 10
Stepout

By Miss Heather Oosthuizen

This year the Grade 10s went on their Stepout journey to the Overberg region again. It was a time of adventure, forming new friendships and enjoying the outdoors. They hiked, cycled and paddled their way through Greyton, McGregor, Robertson and the surrounds. Some days were lots of fun and some days were more demanding, completing these activities in the heat of Summer, but through it all lifelong memories were made!

FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM STEPOUT:

"Cycling on the dirt roads alongside vineyards."
*– **Scarlett Turck***

WHAT DID YOU GAIN FROM GOING ON STEPOUT?

*"Perspective and such a wonderful drive and sense of adventure and companionship." – **Logan Lamb***

BEST THINGS YOU LEARNT ON STEPOUT:

"To try to enjoy the difficult parts as much as the fun parts."
*– **Chloë Oldham***

*"I learnt so many things about my friends while being in their space for five days." – **Anamaé Smith***

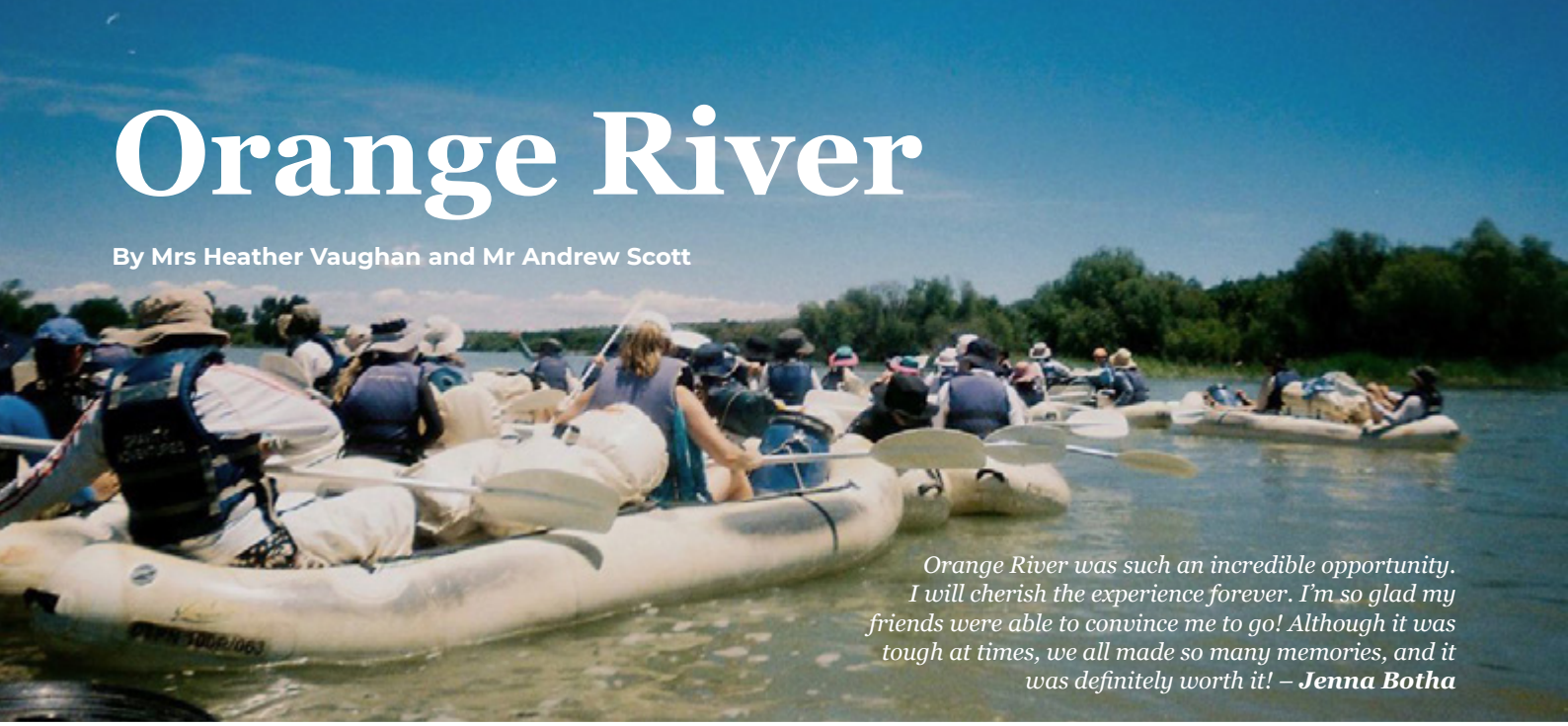
Grade 11 Camp

By Ms Tracy Rousseau

Personal growth and development – getting to know myself and others in my Grade better, learning and growing together.

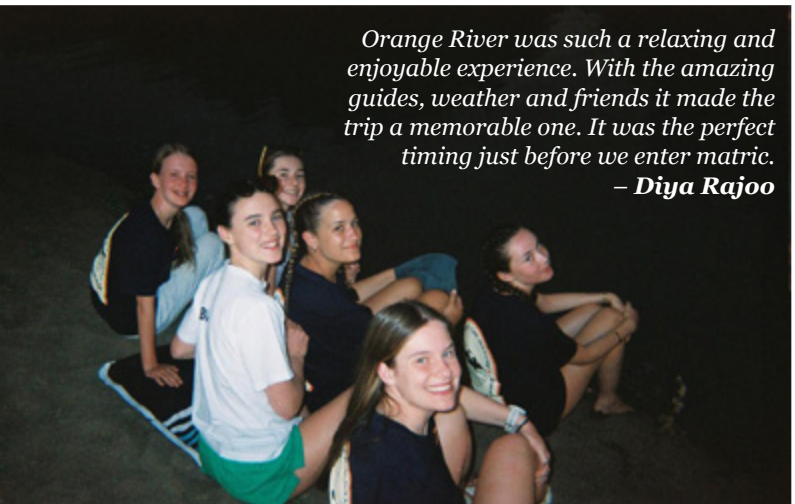
Orange River

By Mrs Heather Vaughan and Mr Andrew Scott



*Orange River was such an incredible opportunity. I will cherish the experience forever. I'm so glad my friends were able to convince me to go! Although it was tough at times, we all made so many memories, and it was definitely worth it! – **Jenna Botha***

*Going on the Orange River was a once in a lifetime trip which I thoroughly enjoyed! It seemed scary at first, but it was honestly one of my favourite experiences of my high school career. You bond with so many people whom you would not have expected to and you make the best memories. Sleeping under the stars is a feeling I feel everyone needs to experience in their lives and nothing beats flowing down the river in the middle of nowhere surrounded by all your friends. I would do it again in a heartbeat and seriously encourage everybody to take part in future Orange River adventures. – **Caitlin Ratcliffe***



*Orange River was such a relaxing and enjoyable experience. With the amazing guides, weather and friends it made the trip a memorable one. It was the perfect timing just before we enter matric. – **Diya Rajoo***

Grade 1-12

FRONT ROW:

Zakiya Bhorey, Georgia Currie, Gemma Fürst, Hannah Rajie, Cyanne Kleye, Julia Turck, Lauren Sherwood, Chloë Hughes, Zeah Douglas

MIDDLE ROW:

Jenna Köller, Catherine Walker, Kelly Cadiz, Grace Mulder, Saushan Ringquest, Isabella Lindsay, Samantha Dore, Eva Magrath, Syriana Mohamed, Sienna Rossouw

BACK ROW:

Kirsten Böttger, Sophie Vickers, Grace Sales, Samantha Flint Zara Böttger

Grade 12

FAR BACK (L – R): Luca Graaff, Mia Scheibe, Viola Unite-Penny, Olivia Egerer, Olivia Sutcliffe, Christina Caryer, Kiara Pryce, Chloe Taylor, Grace Day, Grace Sales, Katherine Gutsche, Isabella Weir-Smith, Isabella Maltz, Samantha Flint, Rebecca Hewat

BACK: Gabriella Russell, Sofia Sierra Rubia, Sophie Kowarski, Saushan Rinquest, Nicole Downard, Scarlett Olmesdahl, Carla Lampe, Rebecca Edwards, Kirsty Buissinne, Sophie Vickers, Zara Böttger, Madison Franks, Jemima McQueen, Micah Engel, Safa Hendricks, Greta Sierra Rubia, Karly Van Schalkwyk

MIDDLE: Fatima Parker, Samantha Dore, Candice Glaum, Adenike Da Conceição, Maseeha Ebrahim, Tessa Bottomley, Gemma MacGregor, Isabella Jefferies, Gabriela Stuart-Reckling, Kirsten Böttger, Hannah Henderson, Anna Lieberman, Isabella Lindsay, Emily Molyneux, Grace Mulder, Hannah Creedon, Bella Madonko

FRONT STANDING: Fatima Mohamed, Sienna Rossiter, Eva Magrath, Emma Van Wyk, Sienna Rossouw, Cyanne Kleye, Selah van Rooyen, Jessica Schilz, Julia Komninos, Kaylin Seymour, Kelly Cadiz, Emma Deneys, Catherine Walker, Jordan Gossmann, Georgia Currie, Jenna Koller, Hannah Rajie, Syriana Mohamed, Charlize Karimi-Tabesh

FRONT SEATED: Maaryah Brey, Tanishka Ramklass, Michelle Parasnath, Reece Corker, Lauren Sherwood, Chloë Hughes, Emma McGaw, Eryn Van Vollenhoven, Daniella Böttger, Aasiyah Bailey, Julia Turck, Farah Parker, Christy Braune, Christina Lorenzen, Gemma Fürst, Zakiya Bhorey, Zeah Douglas

Matric Dance

DANCE WITH THE WAVES,

MOVE WITH THE SEA,

LET THE RHYTHM OF THE WATER
SET YOUR SOUL FREE

Basketball

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: CHLOE TAYLOR

Basketball this season has been filled with many memories and many tournaments. Many bonds were formed throughout this season with Herschel 1st team and U16/A winning top schools.

"I love how fun and supportive our team is. Whether we're laughing together at our inside jokes or playing our hearts out on the court, we always know how to have a good time." – ***Sophia Lobert***

"Play like ✊ not like this 🖐" – ***Eryn van Vollenhoven***

"It's the moments when no one is watching that prepare you for the moments when everyone is watching." – ***Ashley Bassett***

Chess

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: DEVANYA NAIDOO

A sport of logic and nerve, chess asks players to forecast outcomes while remaining perfectly still. The board becomes a quiet battlefield where bold queens, hopeful pawns, and a king...who tries his best define the struggle.

This year's energy:
thoughtful moves and polite panic.

*"No matter how many times you lose or mess up, you will always be gaining something. Because the more mistakes you make, the more you learn. So don't give up if you lose or think you just can't win, because you don't get better if you don't try." – **Anotida Majirija***

*"I appreciate the people in the club for being so kind and supportive. They really made the club a comfortable and happy environment." – **Ruby Chen***

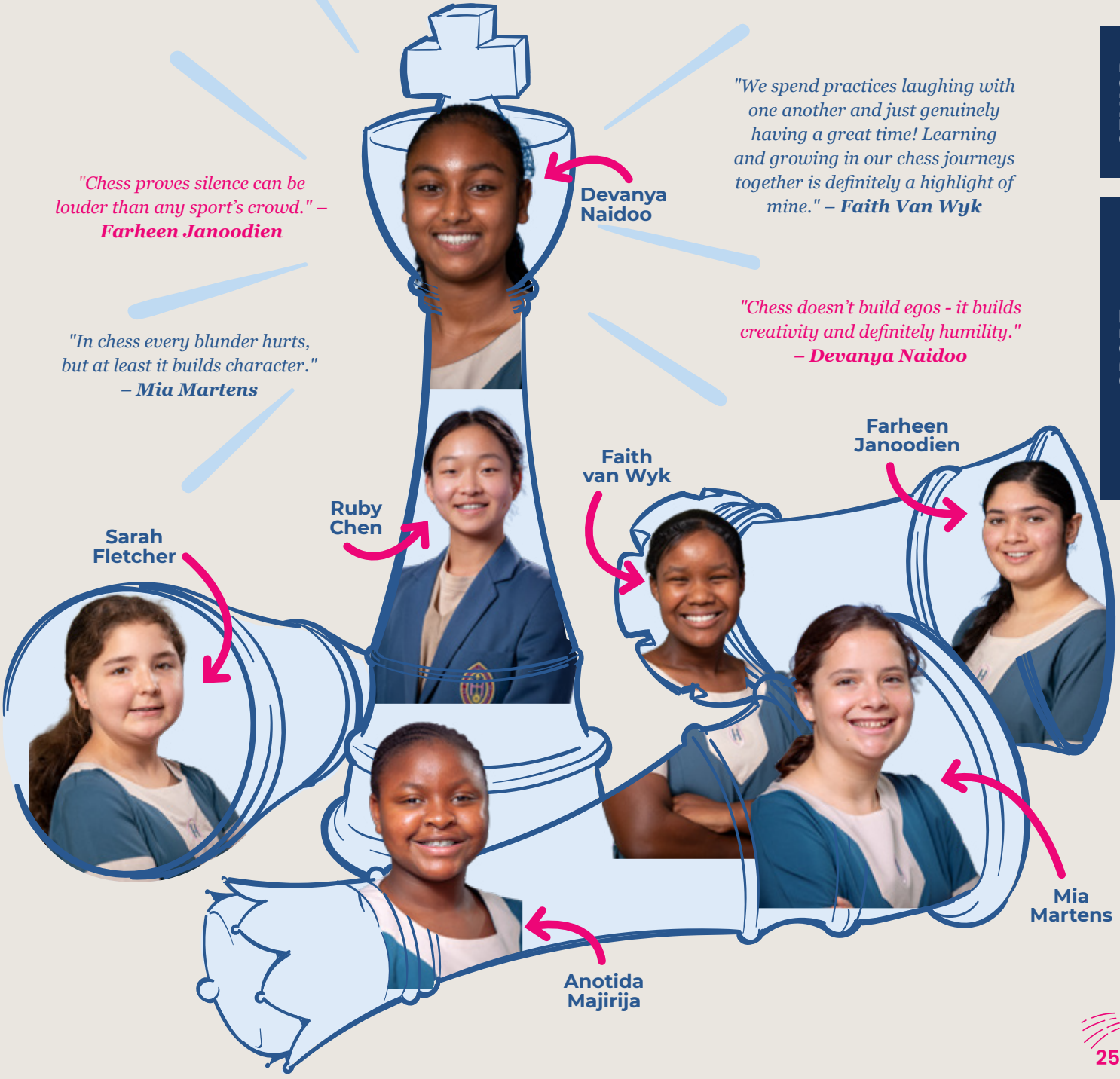
*"Control the centre - it's like owning the best real estate on the board." – **Sarah Fletcher***

*"We spend practices laughing with one another and just genuinely having a great time! Learning and growing in our chess journeys together is definitely a highlight of mine." – **Faith Van Wyk***

*"Chess proves silence can be louder than any sport's crowd." – **Farheen Janoodien***

*"Chess doesn't build egos - it builds creativity and definitely humility." – **Devanya Naidoo***

*"In chess every blunder hurts, but at least it builds character." – **Mia Martens***



"Throughout the season, our cross-country team was all about support and encouragement, no matter how tough a race or training session got. Our coaches constantly pushed us to give our best, while our teammates kept us motivated and positive. It's a community where everyone wants to grow and help each other do the same."

Cross-Country

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: KIRSTY BUISSINNE

This year's cross-country season was all about pushing limits and backing each other every step of the way. From early morning runs to tough races, we learnt what it really means to dig deep and keep going. The team spirit and support made every finish line worth it. Huge thanks to our coaches and everyone who ran their hearts out this season, we couldn't have asked for a better team.

"My favorite thing about cross-country this year was the good sportsmanship among everyone and how we all supported each other during each race, as well as getting to make new friends across the grades."

"I love how cross country makes me appreciate the little things – like clean socks and mud-free shoes."

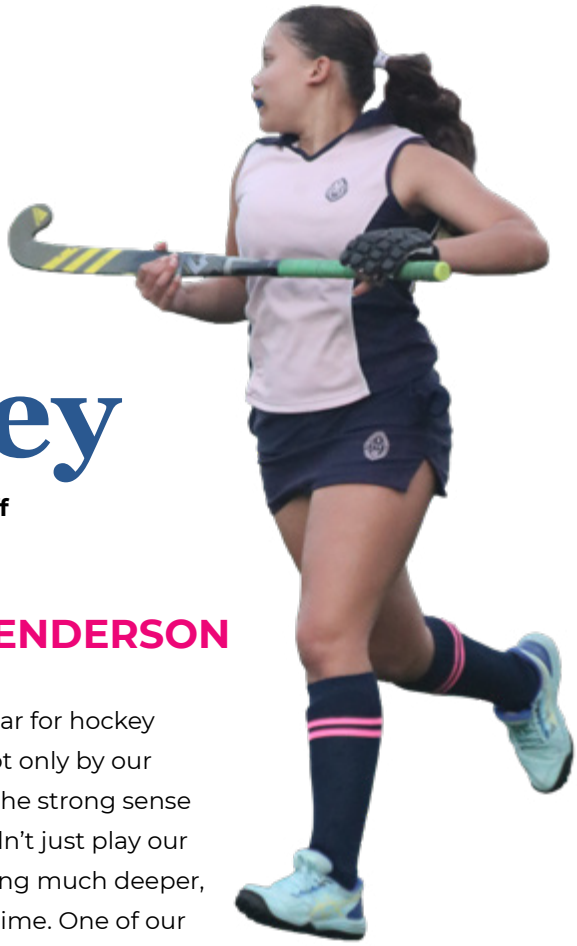
"Every hill, every lap, every race makes you stronger, both physically and mentally."

"Cross country teaches you that progress doesn't happen overnight, it's built one step at a time."

"Run your own race, focus on your pace, not everyone else's."

"The hard days make the good races feel even better, so keep showing up."

"Hockey is more than just a sport, it's about growing together, celebrating together, and having fun no matter what."



Hockey

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: HANNAH HENDERSON

2025 has truly been a special year for hockey at Herschel, an eventful year not only by our achievements on the field but by the strong sense of family we built together. We didn't just play our favourite sport, we created something much deeper, bonds and memories to last a lifetime. One of our proudest highlights was finishing second at the Belgotex Tournament and narrowly missing out on first place at the Rising Cup.

This team holds a very special place in my heart. I am so grateful to Ms Gedult for fostering such a united and inclusive environment, with such a very young team. It has been an incredible year, one I will cherish forever. Big shout out to the sports department Ms Bowren and Ms Eloff for their hard work behind the scenes coordinating all our tours and matches.

#DassiesForLife

"A big thank you to Ms Gedult for an amazing season! We learnt so much, improved as a team, and had an absolute blast along the way. Practices were fun, games were exciting, and your support made every moment better we couldn't have asked for a better coach!"

*"The older girls were so great at including everyone, which made the whole team feel welcome and supported." – **Anna Sherren***

*"Getting knocked down should be motivation for you to fight harder." – **Layla Macnaughton***

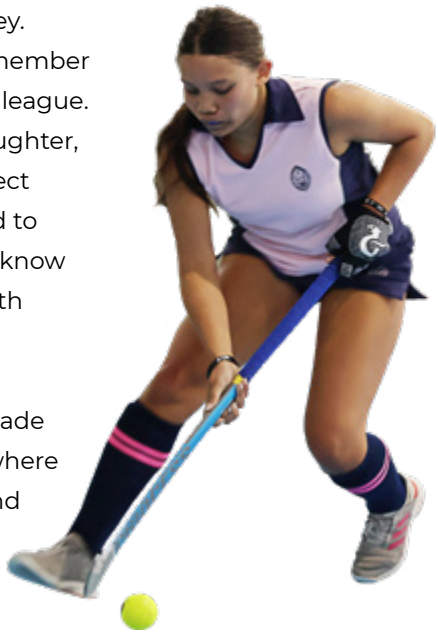
Indoor Hockey

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: HANNAH HENDERSON

This year was a truly memorable one for indoor hockey at Herschel. Not only because it was the Matric Class of 2025's final season, but also because it marked Mr Scott's last year coaching indoor hockey. We were determined to make it a season to remember and we did just that by winning the WP indoor league. Indoor hockey this year has been filled with laughter, sweat and unforgettable moments, a perfect balance of fun and focus. I feel so privileged to have been part of Mr Scott's final season and know that Ms Gedult will continue his legacy with the same passion and dedication.

I am deeply grateful to every person who made indoor hockey such a joyful escape, a place where schoolwork faded into the background and real connections were formed.



*"Coach Phumza is one of the best coaches I've had. She can easily read the game and adjust our strategies in order to adapt to the other teams. Her tips have helped not only me but my teammates grow as a whole. My teammates are people who I can always have a laugh with and have even become some of my closest friends." – **Chloë Taylor***

Netball

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: ERYN VAN VOLLENHOVEN

Netball is an incredible sport that needs teamwork, fitness and mental strength. It had resulted with me forming bonds with people throughout the school, learning important lessons and constantly challenging myself to be my own best version.

*"Netball is a great way to decompress after a long day, and that is why I am always grateful to play netball and keep an open mindset." – **Jayde van Vollenhoven***

*"Your teammates are there for you to rely on. They can be there for you when you find your mindset in the 'red' and you have to trust them if you want to win games. So form bonds and spend time together!" – **Eryn van Vollenhoven***

"One of my best things about squash is that it's like a dance between you and your opponent. You're both in a small space battling for a ball while trying to maneuver around the other player. There's no sport quite as rhythmic."
– Hala Boomgaard

"Since squash is such a small team it allows you to bond and create new memories with your teammates who soon become your best friends. It turns sprints into jogs, stress into laughter and motivates you to improve" ***– Jasmiya Naidoo***

"Squash is all about pushing yourself and seeing how far you can go. Every game is a chance to get stronger and better."
– Georgia Morkel

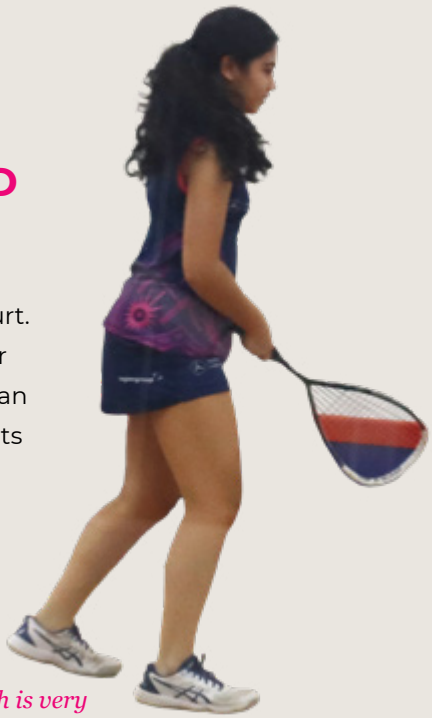
"Always swing your racquet in a smiley face shape"
– Dylan Land

Squash

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: HALA BOOMGAARD

Squash is a high-intensity racket sport that is played in singles or doubles within a four-walled court. Players hit the ball with the goal to catch the other player out. The players play with a rubber ball that can be made of various sizes for up to five sets of 11 points each. Squash is ultimately a battle of mental and physical strength, agility and stamina.



"The first goal to achieve in squash is very simple. It is something my coach says all the time. "Serves and returns matter". So make sure you work on those." ***– Zayaan Sirkot***

"Squash teaches you that the harder the wall hits back, the stronger you become."
– Devanya Naidoo

"I have found that focusing on movement around the court will take you far in the game. It helps a lot with getting a clear shot of the ball and better control of the flow of the game!"
– Chloe Emmerich

"Thank you to Miss Bowren and the swimming coaches for always supporting us and pushing us to do our best."

"Thanks to the whole team for showing up to practice, even at the crack of dawn, and for always bringing everyone closer together."

"Don't give up no matter what you do, never let other people define what you can and cannot do, only you can decide what you are capable of."

Swimming

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: MADISON FRANKS

Swimming at Herschel is more than just a team, we are a family. From winning A league and PGSGU, placing at Supersport schools league gala, to going on the first ever Herschel swimming tour for the Curro Aqua Elite gala in KZN, this year was truly unforgettable. Our teams success is not only limited to the local league galas but also with a number of swimmers representating on an international level. The friendships, laughter, passion and determination have made me so grateful to be apart of such a special team. All the best for the next season (I know you guys will continue smashing it!)

"Swimming is a sport that requires both mental and physical strength, it teaches discipline and perseverance."

"Consistency beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard stay committed, consistent and patient. Good things take time and extraordinary things take even longer. Trust in the process."

"Persevere and never give up."

*"I love the dedication and fulfilling feeling of fighting for a point, and the accomplishment at the end of the match!" – **Emma McGaw***

*"Thank you so much to Coach Catherine for all that she has done for us! She always makes practice so much fun and encourages us to play our best!" – **Lauren van der Spuy***

Tennis

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: GEMMA MACGREGOR

I have absolutely loved my final year of Herschel tennis and especially the journey this year where I was honored to captain the team! I have watched and been inspired by the constant positivity, support and determination displayed by the players and coaches to produce a phenomenal year of tennis! Filled with busy term fixtures, tours and tournaments we have given our best pink energy to thrive in 2025!

*"Our team has created an unbeatable vibe. There's not a day without unlimited smiles and laughter!" – **Anemaé Smith***

*"Practice super hard." – **Ali Rogers***

*"The easiest way to win a tennis match is to focus on the next point." – **Katie Featherstone***

"The energy, excitement, and team spirit at Herschel water polo make every session and match so much fun."

"I've loved this season with our incredible players and coaches, and how Kist has led the team, creating such a strong sense of sisterhood."

Water Polo

By Ms Maryke Eloff

CAPTAIN: KIRSTEN BÖTTGER

"Thank you to all the coaches for the time and effort you put in to help us improve."

"Support your teammates, even when the game gets tough."

"Always keep your eyes on the ball and communicate with your teammates."

"A huge thank you to my team for an amazing season! Thanks to Kirst and Alexa for leading us, we couldn't have done it without you!" – ***Sophie Vickers***

"My coach knows how to have fun but also can be very serious." – ***Claudia Böttger***

Waterpolo has been a huge part of high school for me and I am forever grateful for all the friendships and memories that have come with it. It is a sport that is really enjoyable and often makes me push myself to the best of my ability. I have loved playing waterpolo at Herschel and I don't think I would be where I am today without all the amazing coaching and lively spirit around the pool.

"Enjoy the game and just have fun."
– Kirsten Böttger

Notes

HOPE
ASPIRE & DREAM
BE TRUE
BE KIND