



PAARL-SKOOL

NUUSBRIEF 1/2026



PAARL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 1/2026

The Paarl School Development Foundation's "Colour Me Joyful" ladies' morning on Saturday, 21 February, was truly colourful – in every sense of the word. The wonderful company, and especially the speakers' experiences of Paarl School and their heartfelt words, touched me deeply.

If I had to paint a picture of this term, it would be filled with colour.

The year began with excitement and many golden moments as our learners, staff and parents returned from the holidays. The corridors once again filled with voices, movement and anticipation for the year ahead. The excitement of our new learners, especially our Grade 1s, was palpable. From the very first day of school, it was clear that this would be a term full of energy and opportunity.

Athletes from the Red and Blue teams competed during our Interhouse athletics meet and swimming gala, each striving to walk away with the laurels. Learners from various sports codes also participated enthusiastically in the many opportunities offered to them, as you will see further in this newsletter. These activities were about more than competition; they were opportunities for learners to build self-confidence and resilience.

However, the colours of our school life are not found only on the green sports fields.

Our corridors and classrooms, filled with colour and creativity, are warm and inviting spaces. Throughout the term, we have experienced the joy of learning and the development of potential in classrooms and therapy rooms alike. The multidisciplinary approach at our school ensures that learners receive not only education, but also the support and care they need to flourish. I am extremely proud of every staff member who, each in their own unique way, adds colour to our learners' lives.

When we look back at the photos and stories shared over the past term, we see more than just activities. We see moments of joy: staff creating opportunities, learners participating with enthusiasm, encouraging one another, showing true sportsmanship, and friendships growing stronger every day.

Paarl School has that special x-factor that simply cannot be captured in words. As we approach next term, may we continue to add colour to the story of our school: the colour of caring, the colour of respect, the colour of responsibility and, above all, the colour of courage.

Before every learner lies a beautiful canvas filled with hope and possibilities, and my wish for each of them is to colour it joyfully.

Greetings


Annaline Norman

Prefects 2026



Kiara Swartz



Keanu Smith

Head prefects

FIRST TERM

PROUD
of you!

Leadership camp

The prefects started the term with great enthusiasm at our annual prefect camp. The camp focused on team building, leadership development, and strengthening cooperation among the prefects. It was a valuable opportunity to get to know one another better and to set new goals for the year.



World Social Work Day



17 March was World Social Work Day, when we celebrate the important role of social workers in supporting individuals, families and communities.

Esté Botha,

Paarl School's social worker was spoiled by the prefects as a way of thanking her for her support and help. Luke Adams and Geraldo Griffiths presented her with a beautiful plant.

Valentines-project

A special outreach project was launched for Valentine's Day, during which toiletries and second-hand clothing were collected. The support from the school community was overwhelming, and all donations will be distributed to families in need through K2-Association.



Prefects deliver service

The prefects also rendered services at the Term 1 parents' evening. They welcomed parents and escorted them to their respective meetings. Furthermore, they reported early on a Saturday morning to assist with parking for guests attending the Indaba outreach for Full-Service Schools, hosted by Paarl School. The 2026 prefects are a strong group of leaders full of initiative.

Women's Day of Prayer

On 6 March, our school gathered to observe the International Women's Day of Prayer, a special occasion where women around the world unite in faith, reflection and prayer. This year, the message was led by the women of Nigeria.

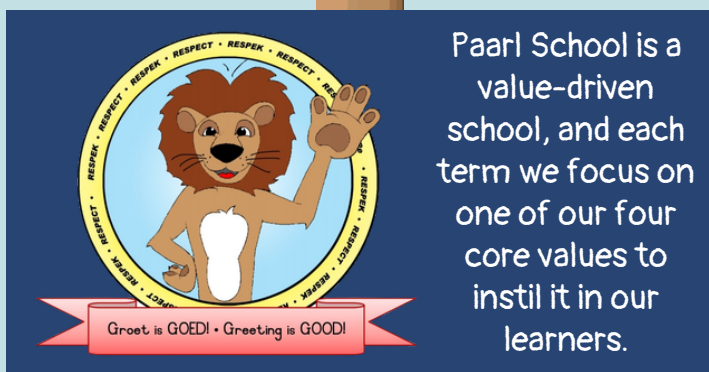
All the women staff members and girls of our school gathered in the school hall for this meaningful time together. We were privileged to have Candice da Rocha as our guest speaker. As a former staff member, it was wonderful to welcome her back.

Candice shared a message based on Matthew 11: 28-30, reminding us of Jesus' invitation: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." She reminded us to pause in our busy lives and find rest and strength in God. The gathering ended on a special note when five learners bravely prayed out loud for our school and community.



Value of the term

RESPECT



Paarl School is a value-driven school, and each term we focus on one of our four core values to instil it in our learners.

Learners are encouraged to live out these values on a daily basis.
Rio the lion is our mascot.

Hostel

Our hostel is proud to introduce the two new head prefects for the year, Lincoln Nimmerhoudt and Rethabile Tlala. These learners have already shown themselves to be responsible, reliable and dedicated role models within our hostel community.

As head prefects, they will play an important role in supporting the hostel staff, encouraging cooperation among learners and upholding the values that our hostel stands for. Their leadership, positive attitude and example will certainly make a difference in the daily life of our hostel learners.

We wish them everything of the best in this important role and look forward to a successful year under their leadership.





Sport Highlights



A term of success in athletics: Celebrating our athletes' achievements!

This term, our school's athletics programme has been nothing short of spectacular, filled with exciting events, fierce competition, and remarkable achievements. From our annual Interhouse Athletics to the Mini Athletics and the Western Province LSEN Trials, our athletes have made us proud at every step.

Mini Athletics Meeting

A showcase of talent and team spirit.

We hosted our annual Mini Athletics event, which showcased the immense talent and sportsmanship of our younger athletes. It was an evening filled with energy, excitement, and incredible performances. We welcomed 9 schools this year, namely Jan Kriel, Tafelberg, Hebron Christian School, Dunatos, Nota Bene, Axios, Westcliff and Vista Nova. Well done to all participants for making this event so special!



Interhouse Athletics

A red team victory!

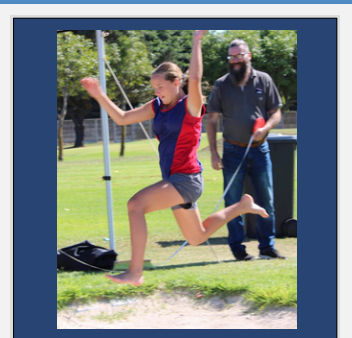
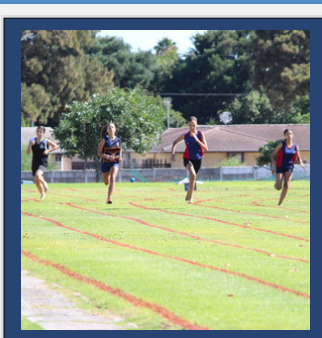
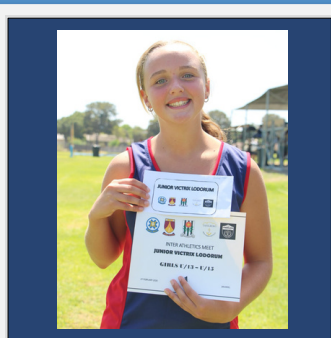
Our much-anticipated Interhouse Athletics event was a huge success this term, bringing together students, teachers, and families for a day of fun and friendly competition. After fierce rivalry, the red team emerged victorious, taking home the trophy, with a stellar performance across the board. Congratulations to everyone who participated, and a special shout-out to the red team for their well-deserved win!



Interschools

Our athletes made us proud at the annual Interschools, where we finished second overall – and with no senior athletes. Many records were broken and many friendships were made.

Congratulations to Jamé Nel who was named Junior Victrix Lorum.



Western Province LSEN Trials

A proud moment for our school

One of the highlights of the term was our athletes' participation in the Western Province LSEN Trials. Seven of our talented athletes were selected to represent the Western Province team:

Lee-Shay Meyer, Qunie Hendricks, Jamé Nel, Megan de Jager, Zoë Ball, Pieter Venter and Kiara Swartz — a huge honour and a testament to their hard work and determination.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the next stage of competition. These athletes

have set a high standard for excellence, and their selection serves as an inspiration to all our students.

Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches, and supporters for making this term a memorable one. Keep up the great work!



Western Cape Parasport

Paarl School is back as a club after a few years of absence and we are very proud of our athletes, cyclists and boccia players who will represent the Western Cape at the National SASAPD Championships in Coetzenburg this year:

Boccia: Ilse du Plessis

Cycling: Charl Joubert, Imaad du Toit, Luke Adams, Ndalo Ngwenya, Tanica Byne

Athletics: Faith Adams, Johannes Vosloo, Kendahl Benting, Liyabona Jafta, Roshé Hamerslag



Western Cape High Schools and LSEN Championships

Our athletes proudly represented the WP LSEN team at the Championships, held at Coetzenburg Stadium in Stellenbosch on 13–14 March. Athletes from across the Western Cape — including WP, Boland, Eden and Central Karoo — competed in the championships. Despite competing in extreme heatwave conditions, our learners showed remarkable determination and resilience and made our school very proud.



A special mention goes to Zoë Ball and Megan de Jager, who competed courageously in the challenging 1500m in very difficult weather conditions.



Congratulations to the following medal winners:

- **Jamè Nel:** shot put- GOLD; discuss - SILVER
- **Lee-Shay Meyer:** high jump and 400m - SILVER, 200m - BRONZE
- **Qunie Hendricks:** long jump - BRONZE
- **Kiara Swartz:** high jump - SILVER
- **Pieter Venter:** long jump - BRONZE

A sincere thank you to Tiaan Koch and Gerrit Scheepers who looked after our WP athletes as part of the management team. Ronel van Dijk also fulfilled an important role as part of the Western Cape High Schools and LSEN Athletics executive by overseeing the medal ceremony during the championships.

We are now keeping our fingers crossed as selections are made for the Western Cape High Schools and LSEN Athletics Team, who will represent the province at the South African High Schools and LSEN Athletics Championships in Rustenburg, Northwest Province, in April.

Swimming

This term, our swimming team has been making waves with impressive performances at both our annual swimming gala and the highly anticipated interschools competition. From personal bests to team spirit, our swimmers have truly showcased their talent and determination, making this term one to remember.





Choir

Our school choir has started the year with great enthusiasm, and we are excited to welcome many new members to the group. It is always wonderful to see learners come together and share their love for music.

During the first rehearsals, the choir has already been working hard to build a strong foundation for the year ahead. We look forward to growing together, learning new repertoire and developing our musical talents.

We are very excited about the year ahead and cannot wait to share our music with the school community. Best wishes to all our choir members for a year filled with music, friendship and memorable moments.



Land Service

LAND SERVICE TERM 1

23 FEB
GAMES AFTERNOON
@ Pearl School
14:00 - 15:00
Cost: free

11 MAR
ARTS & CRAFTS
@ Pearl School
14:00 - 15:00
Cost: R20

13-15 MAR
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
@ Groot Drakenstein
Cost: R780 pp

20-22 MAR
PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMP

25 MAR
PIZZA PICNIC
@ Pearl School
14:00 - 15:00
Cost: R30



The Land Service learners kicked off the term on a cheerful note with a fun games afternoon. During the afternoon, the learners had the opportunity to get to know one another better, share some laughs, and build new friendships. The energy and enthusiasm were contagious, making it a wonderful start to the year's activities.

We are looking forward to everything that still lies ahead this term, including a creative arts afternoon, exciting camps, and a relaxed pizza afternoon. It promises to be a term filled with fun, teamwork, and great memories!



News from the phases

Preschool Phase

The Preschool Phase kicked off the year with great excitement! At our athletics day, the little ones took part with lots of energy – there was fast running, loud cheering, and plenty of laughter. We are so proud of everyone's enthusiasm and wonderful team spirit.

With the warm weather, we enjoyed some fun water games. The learners were splashing, giggling, and cooling off, the perfect way to handle the summer heat!

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with great joy. The day was filled with love, kindness, and special moments shared with friends and teachers. We look forward to a fantastic year together!



Congratulations to Chané van Eysen and her husband on their wonderful pregnancy news. We are so happy for you and wish you a very special time ahead.



Foundation phase



The Foundation Phase held its annual Fun Gala on 6 February, where learners enjoyed splashing in the water and treating themselves to ice cream in the warm summer sun.

On 13 February our learners celebrated Valentine's Day with open hearts. With big smiles they laughed, danced, and sang at the top of their lungs during our special dance.

Eoudia Erasmus from the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) visited the Foundation Phase to speak to our learners about water safety on 16 March. She shared important tips on how to stay safe around water. It was an educational and valuable experience for our learners.



Heatwave learning mode activated. When it is too hot for chairs, the floor becomes the classroom and the underside of your desk the workspace!



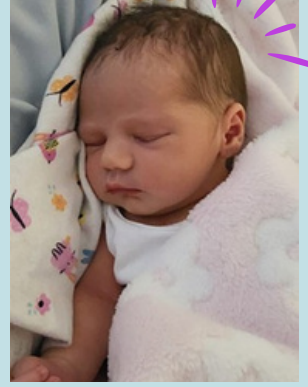
Intermediate Phase

The Intermediate Phase has had a busy and exciting start to the first term. A new leadership and self-development programme has been introduced for all Grade 6 learners. As part of this initiative, five learners are given extra responsibilities each term, and we are already seeing wonderful growth in confidence and leadership among our learners.

From the very first week, learners have been working hard in the classroom. Learning is not always serious, though—sometimes it is concrete and playful too! After all, there is no better way to learn idioms than by playing a game.

We also extend our congratulations to Lehandri de Necker and her husband, Nicholas, on the birth of their daughter, Nihancké.

Finally, a warm welcome to Andries Olivier, who is standing in for mathematics classes. With his many years of experience, we know our Grade 5 and 6 learners are in very good hands.



Senior Phase



We kicked things off by rolling out the red carpet for our new Grade 7's in the beginning of 2026. With our theme, "Everyone fits in," we focused on building a community where every learner feels like a vital piece of the puzzle. It was fantastic to see them settling in so quickly!

We traded desks for discovery on World Read Aloud Day, taking our stories beyond the classroom to prove that literature knows no boundaries. It was inspiring to see our students so engaged, breathing new life into their favourite tales.

Of course, we couldn't let the term pass without some serious fun! Our Valentine's Dance was a huge success, filled with love, laughter and great music.



We also celebrated the newest member of our team. Congratulations to Monique Hougaard and her husband, with the birth of their daughter, Lienke. May she fill your hearts with joy and love.



Functional Phase

Valentine's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Functional Phase. Learners enjoyed dressing in Valentine's "civvies" and spreading love by being kind and respectful, creating a joyful atmosphere throughout the phase. Thank you to the staff and assistants who made the day so special.

Our Term 1 cake sale was a great success. The initiative supported our fundraising efforts while encouraging teamwork and responsibility among learners. We are grateful to the parents and staff who donated delicious treats. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

The Fun Swimming Gala was a highlight of the term. Learners participated with enthusiasm and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. The event was truly great fun — and the weather played along beautifully. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day unforgettable.



Work Preparation

The Work Preparation learners are all given the opportunity to work in the Skills Class. We focus on exposing learners to a variety of work tasks so that we can develop essential work skills, which include work ability and positive work habits. Learners are guided through task planning, execution, completion, and evaluation.



The classes are involved in various activities such as recycling, cleaning, doing laundry, washing cars, baking, cooking, and much more. Some classes also visited different workshops outside the school on a regular basis. We started early in the year, and learners are already working diligently and completing all tasks with enthusiasm. In this way, we ensure that our learners are well prepared for life after school.

Support Team

We welcome Verdine Duvenhage and Hanrie Challis to the Paarl School Therapy Team! Verdine is the intern psychologist and Hanrie is a speech therapist. May you enjoy every moment with us, we look forward to working with you.



Verdine Duvenhage
Intern Psychologist



Hanrie Challis
Speech Therapist



Our Speech Therapy team reached out to Watsonia Primary to equip the grade R and Foundation Phase teachers with valuable techniques and advice on how to develop listening skills. It is always a privilege for the Paarl School Therapy Team to work with the Watsonia Primary teachers.

Cangro



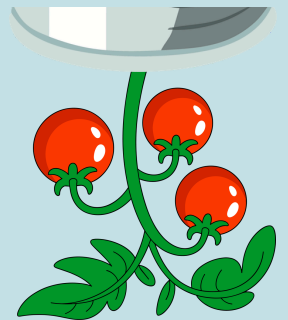
Congratulations to Stuart Botha who was announced as the winner of the Cangro Tomato Plant Project. We are very proud of him and his excellent achievement.



Lily Loubser was announced as the public favourite with the most Facebook likes. Congratulations on this special recognition.



Hein van der Merwe was given the award as the teacher winner. Congratulations on this achievement.



Congratulations to all our winners. Your hard work and enthusiasm make us very proud!

Professional Development

The mantra of the WCED is "Enter to serve, continue to learn" for educators.
The educator staff received the following staff development this term.

Sr. Sandré Jordaan gave an inspiring presentation on epilepsy.



Jean-Marie Cilliers, our own occupational therapist, gave us training in "Executive Functioning".



Dr. Serahni Symington came to deliver a motivational talk on "Trauma – the effect on learners, educators and therapists".



Gustav de la Port gave a presentation on SharePoint and OneDrive.



Our non-educator staff received training from Sandré Jordaan on epilepsy and our school's physiotherapists Reinet Barnard, Anthea Norman, Petronette Basson and Tamlin Abrahams did back care training with the group.

FSS Indaba

Paarl School making a difference

On January 31st, Paarl School hosted teachers from 20 different schools for a day of informative and interactive workshops. As a designated resource centre for mainstream schools within the Metro East district working closely with our Inclusive Education Team, it is our privilege to provide a complementary support service. We focus on sharing knowledge and resources, as well as providing ongoing training to these schools.

Dr. Serahni Symington, an expert in the field of trauma, shared valuable insights with attendees on how teachers can mitigate the impact of trauma in the classroom.

Paarl School's own staff also led practical workshops aimed at finding solutions for the daily challenges teachers face. They demonstrated several proven strategies that are already being successfully implemented for our own learners.

It is clear: Paarl School is making a real difference in our broader educational community!



Who are we?

The Paarl School Development Foundation is a registered non-profit organisation.

What do we do?

The PSDF supports the school financially. It also raises awareness about the needs of the school and the challenges of children with disabilities. The PSDF therefore acts as a bridge between benefactors and the school, making it easy for everyone to help.

Why do we do it?

Paarl School is largely dependent on the generosity of corporate donors, businesses and the community to meet its needs.

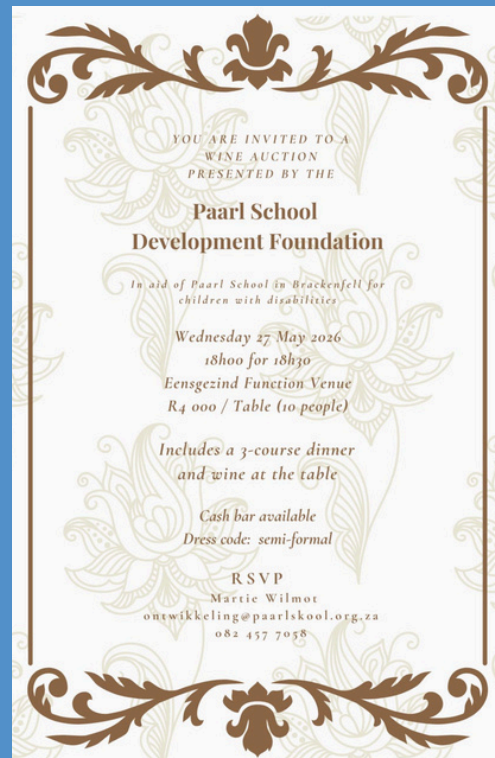
Ladies Tea

The Paarl School Development Foundation hosted a fundraising ladies event on Saturday, 21 February at the school.

With the theme "Colour Me Joyful," guests enjoyed an inspiring morning featuring author and guest speaker Sonja Goldberg, as well as Candice Arendse and Dr. Rebello (Genetix). A total of 145 ladies attended the event and R40 000 was raised in aid of Paarl School. Thank you to all our sponsors, and to everyone who attended and supported this event.



Wine Auction



Our annual charity wine auction will take place on 27 May at Eensgezind. You are invited to support this important fundraising event.

If you know of potential donors or sponsors, please contact Martie Wilmot.

(ontwikkeling@paarlskool.org.za)

Casual Day 2026

Casual Day, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities' fundraising and awareness campaign will be on Friday, 4 September this year. Diarise the date! This year's theme is "Beat the drum" and calls for recognizing the inherent worth, dignity, and uniqueness of all people, regardless of their abilities.



Social media

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for interesting Paarl School stories, news snippets as well as valuable and useful information



Click to register

Click to follow

Loyalty projects

Thank you to those who already support Paarl School with **SchoolDays** and **MySchool** (Woolworths) cards. Feel free to make Paarl School, Brackenfell your beneficiary and start swiping! Thank you SchoolDays and MySchool for the monthly donations that Paarl School receives from you.



MEMO

Corporate Donations

The PSDF is a registered public benefit organisation. Section 18A tax certificates and B-BEE certificates can be issued for this. Please notify us of any new contacts.



With this project, kind-hearted people can pledge to donate R100 every month for one year. The funds help Paarl School learners to receive much needed services and care. Please contact the PSDF office for more information.

Pick-a-Pearl

With this project, institutions can sponsor the school, bus or hostel fees of specific learners in need. Section 18A tax certificates and B-BEE certificates can be issued for this.



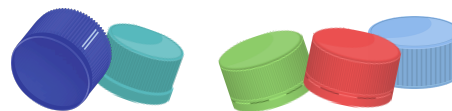
Website

Visit the website of the Paarl School Development Foundation!
<https://www.paarlschooldf.com/>

Click for website

Recycling

Send your (clean) plastic caps/bottle tops to school - we earn money with this project!



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Paarl Skool School

Ontwikkelingsstigting
Development Foundation

