



# PAARL - SCHOOL



**NEWSLETTER 3/2026**

I attended a ladies' morning in August where the speaker explained the care that flowers in a vase should receive. It reminded me of the children at Paarl School...

Just as flowers in a vase need fresh water, nourishment, sunlight, a clean environment and special care to keep blooming, our children need the right conditions to flourish. They need love and encouragement to nourish their hearts, guidance to help them grow, opportunities to let their talents shine, and a safe and caring environment in which they can develop.

And just as every flower blooms differently, every child has their own unique journey, gifts and growth rate, and even challenges. In this newsletter you will see that Paarl School strives to provide the care and opportunities that contribute to each child blooming beautifully.

I salute every staff member at Paarl School. Just as a garden needs dedicated gardeners, our children need caring teachers, therapists, support staff, parents and the wider school community to nurture them, encourage their growth and help them discover their strengths.

In this newsletter you clearly see the hand of each "gardener".

- We proudly crowned a new Mr and Miss Paarl School from an exceptional group of finalists who represented our school with confidence, character and enthusiasm;
- Our learners also showcased their talents through their Eisteddfod performances;
- Seth Brown achieved an impressive 3rd place at the INKAL National Young Historian Public Speaking Competition in Pretoria; and
- Our learners continued to flourish through their sporting achievements, both in group and individual contexts.

A flower does not compare itself to the flower next door. It simply grows, one day at a time, and becomes the best version of what it was created to be. We are very proud of every flower in our Paarl School garden!

I conclude with the following quote:

Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful garden. (Anonymous)

Spring greetings,

*Annaline Norman*

Annaline Norman

*Veel meer as 'n skool / More than a school*



# Prefects

# Head Prefects PROUD THIRD TERM *of you!*



Marlè Nieuwoudt



Luke Adams

Term 3 has once again proven just how big our prefects' caring hearts are. Under the capable leadership of our head leaders for the term, Marlè Nieuwoudt and Luke Adams, the leadership team reached out to others with great enthusiasm.

On Casual Day, the prefects spoiled the little ones in the Pre-School Phase. They wrote and performed a cute puppet show, after which they had fun playing on the playground with the youngsters. The excitement and smiles on the children's faces were priceless.

On 18 September, the Jan Kriel matriculants who were previously at Paarl School came to visit. The prefects managed the arrangements behind the scenes to ensure that all preparations were in place. The matriculants thoroughly enjoyed seeing their

former teachers and friends. Paarl School wishes you all the best for the final exams. We are proud of how far you have already come. **Thank you very much to our prefects for your exemplary leadership!**

# Value

of the term

At Paarl School, we focused on the value of caring during the third term. Caring is important because it brings people closer together, builds trust and helps create strong friendships and relationships. It also makes people feel supported and that they belong. When we care, we learn to be patient, kind and responsible. This makes us happier, gives us a sense of purpose and helps both us and the people we care for feel good.





# Paarl School's Birthday

On 18 July 2026, Paarl School celebrated 48 years of caring, growing, and opportunities for our special learners.

For 48 years, Paarl School has been creating opportunities, inspiring hope, and changing lives. May we celebrate many more years of making a difference. **Happy birthday, Paarl School!**



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## Land Service

This term, members enjoyed a variety of fun and meaningful activities.

The Land Service learners learned during International Colouring Day that colouring can also have therapeutic benefits. Each member received their own colouring book, allowing them to relax, express their creativity and experience the joy of colouring.

We will close off the term with Heritage Day celebrations by enjoying a traditional braai.





# Library



The third term was a busy, but special one in our school library!

In August, we celebrated Women's Month for the first time with our theme "Dream, Inspire, Remember, Celebrate." We loved it so much that we hope this will become an August tradition!

We also completed our annual stock take and are excited to have all our new books ready and waiting for next term. A huge thank you to our Foundation Phase class assistants for their wonderful help.

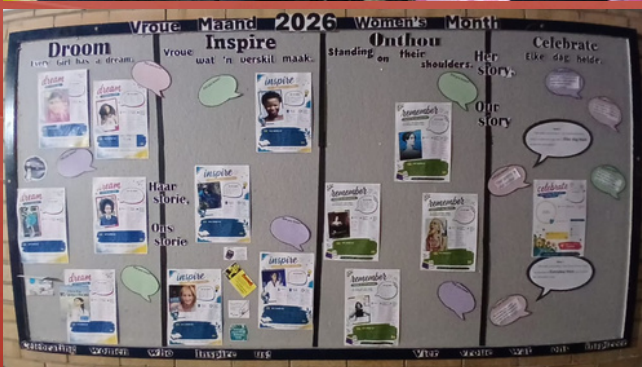
We enjoyed a low-key Book Week, with teachers celebrating the joy of reading in their classrooms. After a busy term, it was the perfect way to end — quietly celebrating books and reading together.

**Dream:**  
Every young girl has a dream.

**Inspire:**  
Women who inspire us

**Remember:**  
Historical women who made a difference.

**Celebrate:**  
The everyday heroes.



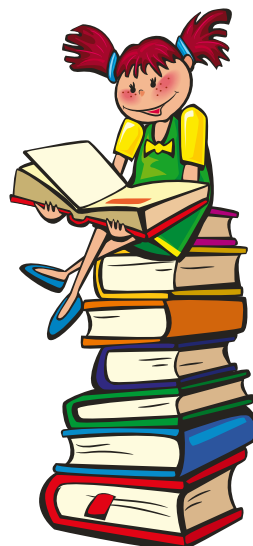
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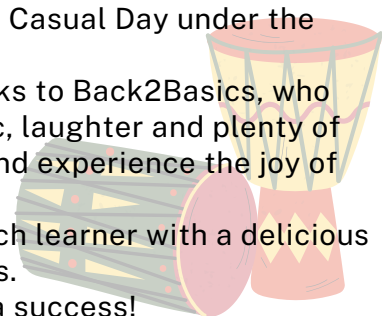
# Casual Day

On Friday, 4 September, Paarl School came alive as we celebrated our annual Casual Day under the inspiring theme “**Beat as One**”.

Our learners were treated to a fun and memorable drumming experience, thanks to Back2Basics, who brought the rhythm and excitement to our school. The day was filled with music, laughter and plenty of enthusiasm as our learners had the opportunity to learn new drumming skills and experience the joy of making music together.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the Brackenfell SAPS, who generously provided each learner with a delicious vetkoek, and to SJC Security for supplying the cool drinks.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day such a success!



## Mr and Miss Paarl School

Mr and Miss Paarl School 2026 truly shone this year with a glamorous evening filled with style, confidence and, of course, plenty of big smiles! With the theme “**Into the Future**”, we were reminded of the incredible potential and bright future that awaits every learner. The evening gave learners the opportunity to showcase their unique personalities, learn new skills and proudly shine in front of their schoolmates.

The evening was about so much more than beautiful outfits and a spectacular stage. It was a celebration of the opportunities created by Paarl School. Every learner showed great courage and was given the chance to step outside their comfort zone and truly shine.

A huge congratulations to **Kendahl Benting**, who was crowned Miss Paarl School 2026, and **William Pienaar**, who claimed the title of Mr Paarl School 2026.

We are incredibly proud of all our participants. You showed us that the future truly belongs to all of us!





# Culture

## INKAL

### Seth Brown makes us proud at INKAL!

We are incredibly proud of Seth, who achieved an outstanding 3rd place in the Young Historian – LSEN Category at the prestigious *inkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme* (INKAL).

INKAL is a national competition that encourages young people to explore and share South Africa's rich history through research, storytelling and public speaking.

Seth's achievement is a wonderful reflection of his dedication, confidence and passion for history. We congratulate Seth on this remarkable accomplishment and for representing our school with such distinction!

Well done, Seth! Your voice and story matters!



## Choir

### OUR CHOIR SHINES ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

What an incredible term it has been for our school choir! This term, our choir had the tremendous honour of representing the Western Cape at the National SASCE Choir Competition in Pretoria. The choir competed in the LSEN Division, taking on some of the best special-needs school choirs in the country.

Standing on a national stage and representing our province was a tremendous achievement. Our learners showcased not only their musical talent, but also their dedication, confidence, perseverance and love for music.

But the singing didn't stop in Pretoria!

Our choir also participated in the Paarl Valley Eisteddfod, where they achieved a GOLD award! This achievement is particularly special because the Eisteddfod is open to learners from mainstream schools. Once again, our choir proved that our learners have incredible talent and potential.



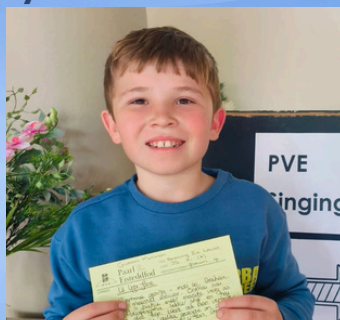
From the national stage in Pretoria to the Eisteddfod stage, our learners have shown that music knows no barriers. Their voices, passion and hard work continue to inspire us every day.

We are incredibly proud of every choir member, as well as the staff and parents who continue to support them every step of the way.

Well done, choir! You have made our school and the Western Cape proud. Keep singing, keep dreaming, and keep showing the world what you are capable of!

## Paarl Valley Eisteddfod

Some of our learners performed poems, unprepared reading and singing at the Paarl Valley Eisteddfod. They shone bright and achieved 7 Cum laude, 2 Gold+, 7 Gold, and 7 Silver+ awards. We are very proud of you and see the courage and enjoyment you derive from your performances!





# Sport Highlights

## Cross Country

### A Season to Remember

What a successful Cross Country season! A huge thank you to all our athletes for their hard work, dedication, courage, and perseverance throughout the season. Our athletes truly exceeded expectations and showed incredible commitment and determination. Congratulations to all our athletes who were selected for the Northern Zone Team.



A special congratulations to Megan de Jager, Zoë Ball and Arlynn Conradie, who qualified for the Cape Metro Team and competed at the Western Cape Championships in Riversdale on 12 September 2026.

- **Megan de Jager:** 4000m u/15 – 4<sup>th</sup> place
- **Zoë Ball:** 4000m u/15 – BRONZE
- **Arlynn Conradie:** 4000m u/14 – SILVER

We are very proud of them and hope that they enjoyed this special opportunity. Congratulations on your participation, and thank you for representing the Paarl School name with pride!

## Netball

### What a netball season!

Four matches, four wins – **undefeated!** Our team showed great sportsmanship, discipline and team spirit against Jan Kriel School, Highbury, Junior Campus and Dominican School for the Deaf. They looked smart in their netball attire, played with pride, and grew stronger together. We are so proud!



## Chess

It was a fun and busy term for our chess team! Our learners participated enthusiastically in the Jan Kriel Sports Day, and also tested their chess skills during various league matches. Each match was an opportunity to learn, improve and enjoy the game! We are very proud of the growth that the learners have shown this term.





# Soccer

## A Term of Football – Goals, Grit and Glory!

What a term it has been for football! Our u/12, u/14 and u/16 teams have taken very different paths this season, but all three have given us plenty to cheer about.

Our u/12s unfortunately never got the chance to play a league match — although they certainly made up for it at training! Under the watchful eye of Tiana van Schalkwyk, the team worked hard, learned new skills and improved tremendously. Their big highlight was the Jan Kriel tournament, where they played some excellent football and, most importantly, had an absolute blast. No league games, but plenty of kicks, laughs and progress!



The u/14s, meanwhile, seem to have discovered the secret recipe for success! They had an amazing season and were crowned league champions. The team will proudly lift the trophy, much to the delight of their coach, Sheldon Cummins, who is extremely proud of their achievement. All that running around has finally paid off!



Our u/16s had a slightly bumpier road. They struggled to find their footing early in the season, but as the final whistle approached, they began showing some serious teeth. Their performances improved, their confidence grew, and they finished the season with plenty of fight and determination.



A huge congratulations to all our players and coaches. Whether they were chasing trophies, chasing the ball, or occasionally chasing each other back into position, our football teams have worked hard and represented the school with pride.

Here's to more goals, more victories and hopefully fewer muddy boots next season!



## Wheelchair Basketball

Our wheelchair basketball team played against Carpe Diem at Astra Special School. It was our first game and we learned a lot.

## Para Cycling

We are extremely proud of Charl Joubert who was chosen for the South African Para Cycling Team who will participate in Oudsthoorn during the September holidays.







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**- Rachelle Booysen**

“

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**- Dawid Norris**

“

*He is a professional of real integrity - transparent, approachable and genuinely committed.*

**- Keenan Thielman**

“

*He made what can be a stressful experience feel easy and effortless.*

**- Nic Best**



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# News from the phases

## Preschool Phase



We would like to wish Chané van Eyssen a peaceful and special time while she is on maternity leave, awaiting the arrival of her precious baby.

In the meantime, we warmly welcome Henda van Schalkwyk to our phase!

Learning is always more fun when milkshakes are involved! During our Occupational Therapy group, the learners had the opportunity to make their very own milkshakes. They enjoyed every moment – from the preparation to the delicious tasting! It was a fun, hands-on learning experience where the learners were able to practise a variety of skills while having lots of fun.

Our learners will have the opportunity to learn more about our diverse South African heritage and celebrate it as part of our Heritage Day celebrations.

We are also very proud of all the beautiful artwork that was submitted for the Eisteddfodd.

After a busy and enjoyable time, our learners are now looking forward to a well-deserved holiday!



We say farewell to Elana Carstens after ten years of dedicated service to Paarl School. We are grateful for her love, passion and contribution throughout the years. We hope that she will enjoy this special time at home and that this new chapter of her life be filled with peace, joy and many beautiful moments.

We welcome Cheryllee Africa, who will be filling in for Grade 3E until December, when Jacky Fourie returns to her position. We wish her a wonderful time at Paarl School and trust that she will enjoy her time in grade 3E.



We are delighted to share that our grade 3E class assistant, Jacky Fourie and her family welcomed their third baby girl, Simonique. We hope this new chapter will be filled with love and many precious moments.

Our Foundation Phase learners had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Artscape Theatre. It was a day filled with excitement and an experience that they will remember for a long time. We are grateful for the opportunity to make learning come alive beyond the classroom.

The teachers had the opportunity to attend a Six Bricks training session during the term. We are excited to see how this creative approach to learning will further support and enrich our learners' development.

## Foundation Phase





## Functional Phase



Our Functional Phase learners continue to make us proud as they learn, participate, grow, and have fun together!

This term, our learners have enjoyed TIPS classes, strengthened their language and communication skills, while building confidence and learning to express themselves.

Our new, inclusive playground has been a wonderful highlight! Learners are enjoying wheelchair-friendly swings, sandpits, basketball hoops and swing ball, while developing physical, social and teamwork skills.

On neatness inspection days, our learners take pride in looking smart and learning valuable self-care and independence skills.

We believe that every learner is unique, capable, and full of potential. We work hard, learn from one another, and celebrate individual progress as we build skills, confidence, independence, friendships, and a sense of belonging.

Every step counts. Every achievement matters. Every learner can shine!

**Together, we learn. Together, we grow. Together, we shine!**

Of the many interesting and exciting things that took place in the Intermediate Phase this term, our Careers Exhibition was definitely a highlight!

The exhibition gave the learners an opportunity to get to know different careers in a fun and interactive way. There was something for every interest and talent.



## Intermediate Phase



We welcomed exhibitors from various career fields, including Shift Netball and Ruggakids, Architecture and Design, an App Designer, an Information Technology Designer, Paint4Fun, Pretpakkie – a Fashion Designer, Dentistry, Early Childhood Development, SOUL Barista and Brackenfell Nursery.

The learners were able to ask questions, discover new skills and experience first-hand what some careers entail. This exhibition inspired them to dream about their interests, talents and future careers. Perhaps future architects, designers, dentists and entrepreneurs may already have taken their first steps.



## Senior Phase

Our Senior Phase learners showcased their business skills during a successful Entrepreneurs Day filled with colourful stalls and delicious treats.

The fun continued with our annual Spring Dance, where learners welcomed the new season in style.

During Technology periods, learners put their practical skills to work and built some impressive projects.



Winter days are synonymous with pancakes! This year's Pancake Day went off smoothly. While the corridors of the Functional Phase were filled with the delicious aroma of pancakes, educators and parents ensured that Paarl School's learners were treated to fresh, warm pancakes.

As part of our curriculum, learners in the Work Preparation classes create wonderful and creative products every day. This year, our senior learners showcased their products at our first Work-Preparation Entrepreneurs' Day. Learners from other phases and our staff were delighted by the beautiful items offered for sale.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

## Work Preparation





# Emotional Support



On 21 August 2026, our annual “Care for the Caregivers” function took place. This special occasion is an opportunity to show our classroom assistants, facilitators and hostel staff just how much we appreciate them.

The theme of the morning was “**Denim and Diamonds**”, and Lizelle De Bruin, RSG presenter and media personality, inspired us with her meaningful message: “Zero is not nothing.”

To each and every person who cares for and supports our learners with such patience, kindness and dedication every day: thank you for all your hard work, care and support.

**We appreciate you. We are grateful for all you do. We see you!**



## Professional Development

We are very grateful to the professional individuals who share their knowledge, time and expertise with our staff.



Melinda Wiese, a school social worker from the Metro East Education District, provided the hostel staff with training on the Stop Abuse Policy.

Nurse Erika Geldenhuys trained our assistant staff in occupational safety within the school environment.

We appreciate your contributions and the difference your knowledge and expertise make!



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# Support Team

## Paarl School's Support Team Reaches Out

Paarl School's Support Team was involved in several outreach initiatives during the past term.

The Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy departments visited Watsonia Primary School on several occasions to provide support to the Grade R learners and teachers.

The physiotherapists conducted various gross motor activities with the learners, while the speech therapists carried out hearing screening tests and made valuable recommendations. The occupational therapists and physiotherapists also presented a "Learning Through Play" session for the learners. The learners, teachers and therapists thoroughly enjoyed these sessions!

Our therapists also made recommendations regarding support for learners in mainstream schools, based on needs identified and referred by Metropool East Education District and our Inclusive Education team.

Through these outreach initiatives, Paarl School's Support Team aims to share knowledge, skills and support with other schools and, in doing so, make a positive difference in the lives of learners.



## PSDF

### Paarl School Development Foundation



#### 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.



# Woolworths My Difference

**The Woolworths Loyalty Programme has moved from MySchool to MyDifference.**

For the past 18 years, the Paarl School Development Foundation has worked hard to grow our MySchool supporter base. Unfortunately, with this change, we stand to lose:

- All our existing supporters
- An important monthly source of income
- Many hours of dedicated effort

**Here's how to re-register:**

1. **Download and open the Woolworths App**
2. **Go to Loyalty → Causes**
3. **Select Paarl School – Brackenfell**

Thank you for helping us continue to make a difference!



Thank you to every person and organisation who has supported us over the past term. We appreciate every donation, Pick-a-Pearl sponsorship, Casual Day sticker purchased, and every word of encouragement.

We would especially like to thank every Dutch Reformed Church congregation in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape that has supported us for so many years. We are grateful for this caring community that continues to make such a meaningful difference.

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- **A5 advertisement – R500**
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For more information contact Elizbè at [psos@paarlskool.org.za](mailto:psos@paarlskool.org.za).



# Casual Day 2026

Casual Day, the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities awareness and fundraising project, was celebrated at Paarl School on Friday, 4 September 2026. We appreciate every person, school and business that supported Paarl School with this project!

## Loyalty projects

Thank you to those who already support Paarl School with

**Woolworths My Difference** cards.

Feel free to make Paarl School, Brackenfell your beneficiary and start swiping!

Thank you for the monthly donations that Paarl School receives from you.



## Social media

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



Klik om te registreer

Klik om te volg



## 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.



## Pick-a-Pearl

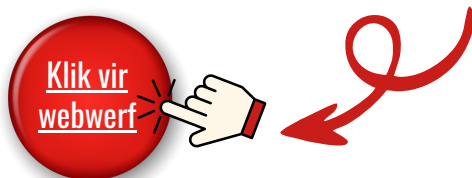
With this project, institutions can sponsor the school, bus or hostel fees of specific learners in need. Section 18A tax certificates and B-BEE certificates can be issued for this.



## Website

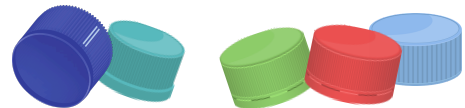
Visit the website of the Paarl School Development Foundation!

<https://www.paarlschooldf.com/>



## Recycling

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



## Contact Details

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