



NEWSLETTER

**KAT RIVER VALLEY
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

FEBRUARY 2023

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"Learning to Love to Learn"



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DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS...

By Mrs Painter, Head of School.

It's been a wonderful, exciting start to our first term of 2023. We have welcomed many new children to our school, who have settled in very quickly and made new friends. I am always amazed at how young children who join our school are genuinely happy to be here. Not only do we have new learners in our school but we are very pleased to welcome, Miss Corfield, the Grade 1 Teacher, Miss Botes, the Grade 4&5 Teacher, and Miss Gardiner as the Grade 6 Teacher. We wish all the new staff a long and happy journey with us at Kat River Valley Prep. Last week we also appointed a new Teachers Assistant, Miss Van Der Walt. She will assist the teachers in the Grade 1-3 classes.

A huge congratulations to our Grade 2 & 3 Teacher, Miss Weitz, who got married at the end of January, who now goes by Mrs Cavanagh. We wish her & her husband a long and happy marriage!

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Our theme for this year in partnership with Keller Education is **GROWING GRITTY MINDS**. Our teachers have ongoing professional training every month. Without effort, no achievement! True grit is perseverance and learning from mistakes without giving up and it takes hard work to reach your goals. This is what our teachers will be instilling in our learners!

We are very excited to introduce our new enrichment programme this year by offering a variety of clubs at the school. The learners have been most excited about these clubs taking place every Wednesday.

I look forward to seeing what the rest of the term brings and I wish you and your families a restful half term!



Pictured Above:
Bomibam & Onika dressed up for Valentine's Day



Pictured Above:
Grade 6 Art



Pictured Above:
Alu doing ball skills for Pre-Primary

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TEACHERS NEWS - JUNIOR PRIMARY

By Aunty Thabi, Miss Corfield, and Mrs Cavanagh

Grade R:

It has been a great term getting to know all the Grade R and Pre Grade R learners, what they like to do, their favourite meals and colours. So far this term we have covered the themes of my body and my family. The learners have discovered more about their five senses and different types of families. They all had great fun making the outline of a human body with lego. It is wonderful to see them growing and becoming independent and confident.



Pictured Above:
Grade 7 Art - Mountains & Sunsets



Pictured Above:
New Learner, Achumile, looking smart in his new uniform!



Pictured Above:
Onika playing the recorder during Music Club

Grade 1:

The Grade 1s started this term strong by learning to read their first few words. Their reading has progressed well and they have all started reading their first books! The learners have done tactile maths on the mat as well as working in their new Number Sense workbooks. We started the term with the "All About Me" theme and I got to know the learners well. They also created self-portraits using pastels and water paints. The next theme we did was "At School" where we discussed the different aspects that make our school function. We are currently doing the "Healthy Habits" theme which involves getting enough sleep, healthy food, personal hygiene, exercise, and limiting television. The learners have created some beautiful artwork this term so far. I am excited to see the learners grow this year.

Grade 2 & 3:

The Grade 2 and 3 learners started the year on a busy note. We all made new friends and learned a lot of new educational concepts. Our theme for this term is "Under the Sea". Our art lessons this term have all revolved around this theme. We had a very busy last week with the start of our assessments. The learners have really been enjoying their sport everyday as well as the introduction of the new Wednesday clubs. My thanks to each learner for working so hard this first half of term

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TEACHERS NEWS - SENIOR PRIMARY

By Miss Botes, Miss Gardiner, & Mr Stretton-Bell

Grade 4 & 5:

The Grade 4s and 5s have a joined class with myself, Miss Botes (also known as Miss B), as their new teacher. The Grade 4s have had a big jump from foundation phase to intermediate phase, however with Grade 5s in the mix it has allowed for the Grade 4s to get into the habit of their new environment. Some of the highlights of the year so far are included below.

Running for Maths: this was a lesson where the Grade 4 learners were taught about time that uses seconds. An example in real life where this is used with races, so all the Grade 4s did a quick run and were timed. The Grade 4s especially enjoyed that Miss B participated too!

Natural Science lessons: the learners enjoyed finding living and nonliving things outside the classroom, this included catching bugs!

Miss B has a large collection of toys in the classroom that the learners get to enjoy when they have completed their work. The learners especially enjoy playing with the magnets, magnifying glass, chess board and building with the plastic straws.

Valentines Day was another highlight for the Grade 4 and 5's because they were able to wear civvies and appreciated the chocolates that they received from Miss B.

There are new learners that have enjoyed making friends at their new school. The Grade 4 and 5 learners that have been at Kat River Valley have been able to make new friends with these new learners, as well make friends with the learners from different grades.

The silent reading time in the mornings have allowed for the Grade 4s to experience using the library and they have enjoyed their morning reading. The learners also enjoy reading from Miss B's bookshelf, especially the Garfield comic strips and books about science experiments.

Another highlight from this term was getting a surprise for Mazvita's birthday. The whole class was able to enjoy a delicious cake.

Grade 6:

The 2023 school year has been off to a challenging, but good start for the Grade 6 learners. We have been exploring the theme, "Healing Our World", which takes an in-depth look at what we as humans are doing to harm our planet and small gestures that we could implement into our daily lives to make a difference in saving our environment.



Pictured Above:
Pre-Primary showing off their
Valentines Day Art.



Pictured Above:
Buncwane and her "Healing our
Planet" poster.

REMINDER

- School opens on Tuesday 28th January 2023.
- All pupils are to return wearing full summer uniform

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By Miss Gardiner

One of the few highlights were learners showing immense excitement about dressing in the “colours of love” for Valentines Day and being able to wear civvies to school. This sparked an interesting class debate about the importance and necessity regarding the wearing of school uniform. Each learner got to take a photo holding a Valentines Day sign, which got sent to the parents, who now have a beautiful photo of their child on the day of love.

Academically, the Grade 6 learners thoroughly enjoy challenging each other in multiplication speed tests, which encourage quick-thinking and accuracy. The Grade 6’s also thoroughly enjoyed mapwork, learning about the various hemispheres and determining distances on the map versus the actual distance on the ground. When asked what their academic highlight was, the class shouted, “The Woema books!”. We were extremely blessed with new Afrikaans textbooks this year, “Woema”, which has sparked a new interest in learning the Afrikaans language. The textbook is filled with creative, fun activities for learners to complete.

I am looking forward to growing with this class and seeing them reach their academic and personal goals throughout the year.

Grade 7:

The grade sevens have gotten off to a strong and positive start this term with the learners showing an enthusiasm and intent that is very admirable. The learners have undertaken an array of fun and interesting activities with one of the major highlights being our experiments on the elements necessary for life which involved planting our own plants and conducting experiments using them. Other fun activities in science involved collecting and classifying plants and learning the distinguishing features that differentiate monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants from one another. Another hit has been the new English set work for the year, Michael Morpurgo’s Kensuke’s Kingdom, which the learners are very engaged and interested in. The learners have also enjoyed learning about the structures and elements of drama. We have learned a variety of new topics in Maths this half of term with a focus on geometry and exponents while Afrikaans has been focused on the theme of Stokperdjies and SS has seen the learners engaging in map work and the ancient African kingdom of Mali.

The learners have also thoroughly enjoyed the introduction of our Wednesday clubs and societies programme with the majority of the class joining either the baking or chess clubs. Overall a very strong start to the term and I hope the enthusiasm continues into the year ahead.



Pictured Above:
Miss Gardiner and her Music Club students.



Pictured Above:
Kungawo on Valentines Day.



Pictured Above:
Eldana in her new Gr4 Class.

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CLUBS

By Mr Stretton-Bell, Miss Gardiner, Miss Botes, Mrs Cavanagh & Miss Corfield

Many learners have been very excited this term with the introduction of various clubs and societies as part of our new Wednesday enrichment programme.

The teachers run the clubs on Wednesdays and learners have the opportunity to change to a new club every term. To date, the clubs introduced include: the Cooking Club, Drama Club, Recycled Arts Club, Music Club and the Chess Club; with a dance club still to be introduced by our new teaching assistant, Ms Van Der Walt.

The learners in the Music Club have enjoyed learning how to play instruments, such as the recorder, as well as learning how to use their own body as a musical instrument through the use of body percussion, clapping, beat boxing amongst others. The learners also spent time singing various nursery rhymes and finally Ms Gardiner has started to introduce them to playing the recorder.

The Chess Club, while already running last year, has seen a renewed interest and some new sign-ups. Learners have learned new skills and really enjoyed the pizza that they received in the last session we had. Our first fixtures are scheduled for the later half of this term and we hope to keep up the winning streak we started last year.

In Drama Club, learners have had another chance to bring out their creative sides and the learners have enjoyed acting and doing funny things such as experimenting with different emotions and doing impersonations. The learners have also been able to learn more about each other and the club looks set to be a great success.

The Recycled Art Club has been making use of waste materials and upcycling them into something new and beautiful. The learners have really enjoyed the process and their creative sides have definitely come to the fore in the process of making something new out of something old.

Cooking Club has been very successful so far! We have 20 students who have thoroughly enjoyed it. We have taught the students about safety in the kitchen, reading a recipe, cleaning up the kitchen, and measuring using cups and spoons. We first made flapjacks which involved the students making the batter and cooking the flapjacks on a pan. We then made delicious mini pizzas. The learners made the dough from scratch and kneaded it as well as shaped the dough. They added tomato puree and cheese on top. We are very excited for many more delightful treats to come.



Pictured Above:
Smart moves during Chess Club!



Pictured Above:
Cooking Club learning how to make pizzas!



Pictured Above:
Miss vd Walt with the Pre-P kids.

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Pictured Above:
Learners warming up for sport.



Pictured Above:
Drama Club learners practicing their acting.



Pictured Above:
u9s Soccer match against Yellowwoods



SPORT

By Mr Stretton-Bell

This term the learners have been doing swimming, tennis and soccer for sports. Some of the highlights so far have been the resounding successes achieved by our u9 and u7 players who have managed to win all matches so far. Unfortunately our senior soccer matches have all been postponed to after half term due to bad weather and the recent school closure due to protests. The second half of term will prove to be very busy with our rescheduled soccer matches as well as a round of cricket fixtures scheduled with Yellowwoods and Bedford Country School. Towards the end of the term we are looking to switch to our winter sports programme with many learners eager for the return of rugby, hockey and netball.

GALLERY



Pictured Above:
Grade 6s and their new "Woema" books for Afrikaans.



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