

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2026 | ISSUE 2



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WRITTEN BY MR VAN VUUREN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

"Together we grow: united in purpose, we nurture potential and flourish as one."

As Term 1 draws to a close, I am pleased to share a snapshot of a productive and rewarding term. Classroom visits have shown that quality learning is taking place across all grades. Learners have engaged well, enjoyed their lessons, and their progress is evident.

After half-term, our learners took part in hockey, netball and rugby development. Much focus has been on fitness, and we look forward to fixtures in Term 2. The development in these codes is very clear, and we are proud of the commitment and sportsmanship shown by our learners.

Our chess teams also displayed fine skills during recent tournaments. Special thanks to Leroy Maisiri for his inspiration and support. We appreciate the time he puts into this programme.

Our staff have continued to grow professionally during our Wednesday afternoon development sessions. These discussions are already having a positive impact in classrooms and teaching practice.

We are extremely proud of our learners and grateful for the continued support from parents and carers. Moving forward, we aim to strengthen parental involvement and engagement within our school community. More communication will follow in the new term.

A special mention to our committed staff who work extremely hard, not only educating your children, but also teaching valuable life skills.

Wishing all learners and families a well-deserved, restful holiday.

We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for Term 2.





Imani dressed as a Chef on Career Day.



Pre-Primary learners showing off their beautiful art.



Imfudumalo and Kulowo playing with sand.

Pre-Primary News WRITTEN BY MISS COETZER

During the second half of Term 1, our classroom has been filled with fun, creativity, and exciting learning experiences!

We celebrated Aphiwe as our Star of the Week, where she showed wonderful enthusiasm, kindness, and a consistently positive attitude.

Creativity was in full swing as Lunake enjoyed finger painting her name, exploring colours while strengthening her name recognition skills. The class also had great fun creating autumn tree art and heading outdoors to collect leaves, bringing nature into their learning.

Exploration and sensory play were highlights for many, with Imfu and Kulowo especially enjoying time with kinetic sand as they discovered different textures and shapes.

The recent book fair sparked great excitement, and Khwezi proudly shared the lovely books she had chosen, inspiring a growing love for reading among her classmates.

Easter activities brought even more joy to the classroom. Okwenam showed great excitement while creating Easter art, and Sibuve worked with focus and care as she decorated her Easter egg beautifully.

Career Day was a wonderful opportunity for learners to express themselves. Imani confidently dressed up as a chef and shared her outfit with pride, while Nanilethu impressed everyone with her confidence as she stepped into the role of a doctor.

To top it all off, the class thoroughly enjoyed creating bee art and bright, colourful rainbow artworks, filling our classroom with happiness and colour.



Aphiwe receiving a star of the week certificate.



Pre-Grade R's showing off their beautiful art pieces.



Kayden busy with Number Sense.



Indiphile with her healthy food plates



Nizibone with the rest of the Easter Egg prize winners.



Grade R's with their colourful plates full of nutritious food.

Grade R News

WRITTEN BY AUNTY THABI

It has been a busy and rewarding term for our Grade R class. Learners have been working hard to develop their fine motor skills through a variety of activities such as drawing, colouring, cutting, and tracing. They are also learning correct letter formation and practising neat handwriting, showing great progress and pride in their work.

We explored the theme of shapes and colours in a fun and engaging way. Learners enjoyed learning the names of different 3D shapes and were able to identify these shapes in everyday objects around them. This helped make their learning both meaningful and exciting, as they could connect classroom concepts to the world around them.

A strong focus was also placed on healthy living. Learners were taught the importance of nutritious food, good hygiene, and daily healthy habits such as washing hands and brushing teeth. It has been wonderful to see them applying these habits independently in the classroom and encouraging one another to make healthy choices.

The book fair was a wonderful experience, and learners confidently selected their own books, showing enthusiasm and a growing love for reading. Career Day was also a highlight of the term, with learners proudly dressing up and sharing their future dreams. Thank you to all the parents for your effort and support in making these experiences so special.



Grade R's with their Career Day outfits.



Meet the

TEACHER

Fun & Personal



Hello, I'm Miss Thobile Ntengu.

I have been teaching for over 10 years.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and relaxing at home.

Do you have a favourite book or movie?

My favourite movie is Good Deeds by Tyler Perry.

Tea or coffee?

I start my day with a strong cup of coffee early in the morning.



Advice & Inspiration

What do you hope your learners will remember most from your class?

I hope they remember that they are all special and they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

Fun facts

What is one fun or surprising fact about you?

I love singing even if it's just for fun.

What is something learners might not know about you?

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy going to church and watching funny movies.



Favourite Things



- **Colour:** Yellow
- **Food:** Creamy mince pasta
- **Favourite holiday destination:** Sun City, they have beautiful surroundings there.
- **Favourite quote:** Making a mistake is proof that you are learning.

What the Grade R's love about school:

I LIKE TO PLAY WITH MY FRIENDS.

I LIKE AUNTY THABI BECAUSE SHE HELPS ME.

I LIKE AUNTY THABI AND I LIKE TO BUILD PUZZLES.

I LOVE TO PLAY OUTSIDE WITH MY FRIENDS.

I LIKE THIS SCHOOL BECAUSE I LIKE TO WORK AND I LIKE AUNTY THABI.

I LIKE TO SWIM AND TO DRAW.

I LIKE TO WORK AND I LIKE TO READ.

I LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT THE ALPHABET AND TO WORK.

I LIKE THIS SCHOOL BECAUSE THERE IS ART.

I LOVE TO PLAY WITH PUZZLES AND I LIKE TO WORK WITH NUMBERS.



Aunty Thabi with her Grade R learners.



Grade 1 News WRITTEN BY MISS BOTHA

What a vibrant and fulfilling first term it has been in Grade 1! The second half of the term was especially lively, filled with joyful moments, creativity, and meaningful learning experiences.

The excitement around the Book Fair was truly heart-warming, as learners eagerly explored new stories and proudly chose books of their own. Career Day added even more sparkle, inspiring big dreams and confident sharing as learners stepped into the shoes of their future selves.

A new adventure began on the sports field as learners were introduced to hockey for the very first time. With great enthusiasm, they embraced the challenge, building confidence and developing new skills along the way.

In the classroom, Mathematics came alive through skip counting and engaging shape patterns, helping to lay a strong and confident foundation. The learners approached their assessments with determination, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements.

Life Skills lessons provided a safe and nurturing space for learners to explore their emotions. Through drawing and open discussions, they learned the importance of expressing themselves and identifying people they trust.

Creativity blossomed through beautiful Easter art, and the excitement reached its peak during a joyful Easter egg hunt, filled with laughter and delight.

Perhaps most special of all has been watching friendships grow—kindness, teamwork, and support have truly become part of our classroom culture.

Well done to each learner for a wonderful Term 1 filled with growth and happy memories. May you enjoy a restful and well-deserved holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term ahead!



Grade 1's with their new books at the book fair.



Liyolatha with her star of the week award.



Beloved showing off her neat work!



Our Grade 1's with their beautiful career day outfits.



Saron showing her clever geometric pattern for her necklace.



Inakho and Jamal during hockey practice.



Siphosenkosi browsing through the books at the book fair.



Jamal working on the food pyramid.

Grade 2 & 3 News

WRITTEN BY MISS SOUTHEY

It has been a busy, productive, and exciting term in our Grade 2 and 3 classroom!

In Mathematics, learners have been working hard to identify, describe, and compare both 2D and 3D shapes. They have also explored geometric patterns, learning to recognise, extend, describe and create their own patterns using a variety of shapes and colours.

In Life Skills, we have focused on healthy living, with a special emphasis on nutritious food choices. Learners have been introduced to the food pyramid and have discussed the importance of balanced meals and how different foods help our bodies grow strong and stay healthy.

Creativity has truly shone in Art this term. Learners enthusiastically designed and constructed their own recycled art sculptures, using a range of materials brought from home. It has been wonderful to see their imagination, problem-solving skills, and environmental awareness come together in these unique creations.

We also had a very successful Book Fair, which created great excitement around reading. Many learners showed increased interest in books and storytelling, and it was lovely to see their enthusiasm for growing their own home libraries.

On the sports field, learners have continued to develop their hockey skills. They have been practicing basic techniques, teamwork, and coordination, and it has been encouraging to see their confidence and ability improve with each session.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and positive attitude shown by all our learners this term, and we look forward to even more growth and learning in Term 2.



The Grade 2's and 3's with the naartjies they received from Riverside.



The Grade 4's and 5's on Career Day, with the fruit that they received from Riverside.

Grade 4 & 5 News

WRITTEN BY MISS BEZUIDENHOUT

Wow! Term 1 has flown by, and our Grade 4 and 5 learners have been busy learning, exploring, and creating!

In Mathematics, learners have been on a mission to master important topics. They've been solving problems, practicing tricky sums, and gaining confidence with every question. It's amazing to see them thinking critically and cheering each other on!

In Natural Science, our curious scientists explored the life cycles of plants and animals. From tiny seeds sprouting into tall plants, to baby animals growing up in the wild, learners discovered how life changes and grows. They even started thinking about how we can take care of our environment to keep it healthy and full of life.

Our first Project-Based Learning (PBL) adventure was all about building water wheels! Learners became little engineers, designing wheels that spin with flowing water. Did you know that water wheels have been around for hundreds of years and were used to grind grain, saw wood, and even power factories? Our learners loved seeing how science, creativity, and teamwork come together in real life!

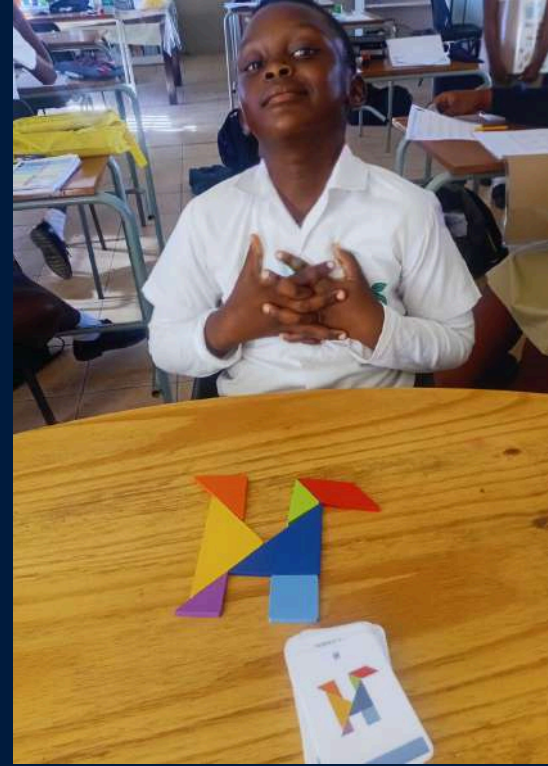
In Computers, learners dove into the world of hardware and software. They discovered what makes a computer work, explored different programs, and learned how technology helps us in school and at home.

This term, our focus has been on growing together. Learners practised respecting each other, helping each other, and building each other up whenever someone needed support. It has been wonderful to see kindness, teamwork, and encouragement thriving in our classroom.

Term 1 has been full of fun, challenges, and exciting discoveries. We are so proud of our learners' hard work and creativity. We hope you enjoy your holiday, stay safe, and come back ready for more learning and adventure in Term 2!



The seniors watching the drone spray citrus.



Enzo busy building a tangram.



Grade 4's and 5's viewing books at the book fair.



Ongama busy with her seed experiment.

Grade 6 & 7 News

WRITTEN BY MRS CAVANAGH

Dear Parents and Guardians,

And just like that, Term 1 has come to a close! What a vibrant, energetic, and truly rewarding term it has been for our Grade 6 and 7 learners. From the very first day, the classroom has been filled with determination, enthusiasm, and a strong drive to succeed. The effort and commitment shown in every task and assignment have been remarkable, and we are incredibly proud of the results achieved.

One of the highlights of the term was our fascinating visit from the farming world, where learners had the unique opportunity to see a drone in action. Watching how it maps orchards and sprays oranges sparked curiosity and excitement—bringing technology and agriculture together in a way that made learning come alive.

The term also got off to an energetic start with hockey, netball, and rugby practices. The fields were buzzing with excitement as learners embraced teamwork, built fitness, and enjoyed every moment of being active together.

Career Day added a splash of imagination and inspiration, with our learners stepping confidently into the shoes of future professionals. From doctors and scientists to lawyers and teachers, it was a joy to see their dreams and ambitions so proudly on display.

As we wrapped up the term, creativity took centre stage during our annual Easter egg decoration competition. The level of detail, colour, and originality was truly impressive—what a talented group of young artists we have!

We were also incredibly fortunate to receive a generous gift of fresh oranges from Riverside Farm. Each learner went home with a bag, adding a sweet and thoughtful touch to the end of our term.

A special thank you to our Grade 6 and 7 learners for a wonderful end-of-term class party - what a lovely way to celebrate all the hard work and shared memories of the past few months.

As the holidays begin, we encourage everyone to take a well-deserved break, spend quality time with loved ones, and return refreshed for the exciting term ahead.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Easter.



Unabantu, Liminathi and Eldana dressed up for Career Day.



Ayazingca packing naartjies to take home.



CJ reading aloud to the class.



Grade 6's and 7's having a blast in the pool.



Achumile, Tafara, Hlalumi and Asekho at Career Day.

Sport News

RUGBY

WRITTEN BY COACH SYDNEY

This term has been a productive and exciting period for our rugby teams, with players showing great commitment, growth, and enthusiasm throughout both training sessions and matches.

Our U13 and U11 team demonstrated excellent progress over the course of the term. They displayed strong teamwork, discipline, and a growing understanding of the game. Their performances in training were impressive, as they showed resilience, good decision-making, and the ability to execute skills under pressure. The team continues to develop into a well-structured and competitive unit.

For the U9 team, the focus this term was on building a strong foundation. We concentrated on teaching the basic skills of rugby, including passing, catching, and safe tackling techniques. Emphasis was also placed on understanding the rules of the game and promoting teamwork. The players responded well, showing enthusiasm and steady improvement, while also learning the importance of safety and sportsmanship.

Overall, it has been a rewarding term. All teams have shown growth not only in skill level but also in confidence and character. We look forward to building on this progress in the next term and continuing to develop both the individual players and the teams.



Juniors warming up.



Saron and Lunathi during Netball practice.

NETBALL

WRITTEN BY MISS BEZUIDENHOUT

Netball practice has been in full swing this term, and our girls have been showing fantastic commitment and enthusiasm! On the court, we've been focusing on developing key skills that will make them stronger and more confident players.

Defenders have been learning how to defend effectively without making contact or causing obstruction, practising positioning, timing, and reading the attackers' movements carefully. This helps them improve both their technique and understanding of the rules of the game.

Meanwhile, attackers have been practising moving into spaces, improving their footwork, and perfecting their passing skills. They've been learning how to create opportunities, support their teammates, and make smart decisions under pressure.

These drills not only improve their individual skills but also strengthen teamwork and communication on the court.

It has been wonderful to see the girls' positive attitudes and excitement to play each week. They have been encouraging each other, celebrating small victories, and showing real sportsmanship during every practice. The progress made this term is visible not just in their skills, but also in their confidence and teamwork.

HOCKEY

WRITTEN BY MISS BOTHA

As the term draws to a close, there is a real buzz of excitement around the hockey field as we look ahead to the upcoming season!

Both our Foundation Phase and Senior Phase learners have thrown themselves into training with energy and enthusiasm. Our younger players have been building their confidence through fun skill-based activities, learning the basics of the game while improving their fitness in an enjoyable and supportive environment.

Meanwhile, our Senior Phase players have been hard at work sharpening their game play, building strength and fitness, and developing strong teamwork on the field. Their dedication and commitment have truly stood out.

We are fortunate to have a group of exceptionally talented senior players this year, which will make selecting our Under 13 team no easy task—but what an exciting position to be in!

With matches kicking off in Term 2, we are eagerly looking forward to a season filled with growth, teamwork, and great sportsmanship.

Together we grow!



Luphiwo busy with a warm up drill.



Juniors practicing short passes.



Seniors warming up for hockey.

CHESS

WRITTEN BY LEROY MAISIRI

New Records, more Medals, incredible Chess played in Term 1

What a remarkable few weeks it has been for the Kat River Chess Club! Our young strategists have been hard at work, and their dedication is paying off in spectacular fashion. From Graaff-Reinet to Grahamstown, our players have demonstrated not only skill and focus, but also resilience and true sportsmanship.

Sarah Baartman Trial 5 – Graaff-Reinet (28 February).

Our journey to Graaff-Reinet for Trial 5 proved to be an outstanding success. The team returned home with an impressive six medals, alongside top 10 finishes across every single age group we entered. This is no small feat and speaks volumes about the strength and depth of our club.



Yeabnat, our youngest player, receiving a medal.



Eldana, receiving her medal.



Sivu receiving his medal.



Liminathi, receiving her medal.



Tafara receiving his medal.

Chess news continued...

Even more exciting Kat River dominated the field, claiming a significant share of medals, top 3 placements, and top 10 rankings!

A special round of applause goes to our medal winners:

- Saron – Gold (U10, undefeated across all 3 rounds)
- Eldana – Silver (U14 Girls, 4.5/5)
- Liminathi – Gold (U14 Girls, 4.5/5)
- Achu – Silver (U14 Boys, 4.5/5)
- Kwanga – Bronze (U14 Girls, 4/5)
- CJ – Bronze (U16, 4/5)

This was truly an all-round team performance disciplined, focused, and fiercely competitive. Within another two weeks the team was on the road again.

Trial 6 – Sarah Baartman Trials, Grahamstown (14 March)

If Trial 5 was impressive, Trial 6 took things to another level entirely! Competing in Grahamstown, our players delivered a record-breaking performance, bringing home an incredible nine medals - **our best result yet!** Here's how the medals stacked up:

Gold Medals

- Saron Tadesse (U10)
- Yeabnat Tadesse (U8)
- Luniko Ntengu (U14 Boys)

Silver Medals

- Aseko Sibane (U12 Boys)
- Liminathi Mangcotywa (U14 Girls)
- Achumile Makwetu (U14 Boys)

Bronze Medals

- Sivutando Ndikkila (U12 Boys)
- Eldana Tadesse (U14 Girls)
- Tafaranashe Munchenje (U14 Boys)

That's a perfectly balanced tally: 3 Gold, 3 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals a testament to consistency across the board. A special mention must go to our U16 players, CJ and Luniko M, who competed against predominantly high school opponents. Despite the tough competition, both players held their own and finished in the top 10 of their division an exceptional achievement that highlights their growth and determination.

The club has always just finished its massive long term competition in search of the 2026 Chess Captain and after many rounds of playing each other CJ Janeke has been crowned Chess Captain for 2026.

Looking Ahead

These results are more than just medals they reflect the commitment, preparation, and passion that each player brings to the board. The club continues to grow from strength to strength, and the future is incredibly bright.

To all our players: your hard work is showing.

To our parents and supporters: thank you for your unwavering support. We move forward with confidence, pride, and plenty of momentum.

The next tournament awaits and if these performances are anything to go by, Kat River Chess Club is just getting started. Checkmate to the competition!