# KAT RIVER VALLEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025 | ISSUE 1

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### Term Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **26 February** | School Ends – Half Term |
| **4 March** | School Starts |
| **9 April** | School Ends |
| **14 March** | Book Fair |
| **31 March** | Smartie Jar Raffle closes |

### Chess Tournament Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| **1 March** | Alice |
| **15 March** | Alice |
| **22 March** | Graaff – Reinet |
| **5 April** | Alice |

## WRITTEN BY MRS PAINTER, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Dear Parents,**

It has been wonderful to welcome all our learners back to school and to meet our new students. They have settled in quickly, and it is truly heart-warming to see their happiness each day.

This year, we are focusing on community service, helping our children understand how privileged they are to receive a quality education from our dedicated teachers. Many children are far less fortunate, with little access to education or even a proper meal to start the day.

As part of our Read Aloud Day, our learners visited a school in the township, reading stories to groups of children. It was a special and eye-opening experience, and we hope it left a lasting impact. Next, we look forward to visiting the local soup kitchen, where we will have the opportunity to volunteer and give back.

As we head into the half-term break, I encourage you to spend quality time with your families, creating special memories. Family is invaluable. A heartfelt thank you to our teaching staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work.
Wishing you all a restful break—we look forward to a productive and exciting second half of the term, both in the classroom and on the sports field.
God bless and take care.

Warm regards,
**Mrs Sam Painter**


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# Pre-Primary News

### WRITTEN BY AUNTY THABI

Our class has warmly welcomed 18 learners, bringing even more energy and excitement to our environment. It has been a pleasure getting to know them. Our mornings begin with the weatherboard activity, where learners learn more about the days of the week and months of the year.

We have focused on phonetic sounds, number recognition, and shape identification.

During our half-term, we explored a variety of themes, including "All About Me," "At School," "In the Classroom," and "The Days of the Week."

The learners enjoyed learning more about themselves, recognizing the beginning sounds of their names, and discovering their surroundings.

One of the highlights was a school tour, during which learners had the opportunity to visit different classrooms and offices, making them feel more connected to their learning environment.

The learners created beautiful friendship trees by painting handprint leaves, symbolizing the bonds they share with their classmates.

For Valentine's Day, they made adorable lovebugs, which they had fun crafting.

We are proud of their enthusiasm and growth, and I look forward to more incredible experiences.

Pre-Primary learners celebrating Valentine's Day

Sibuve and Likhaya showing off their "Friendship Tree"

Oluthando receiving a Golden Sticker for his neat work.

# Grade 1 News

### WRITTEN BY MISS BOTHA

We are pleased to share that the Grade 1 students have transitioned beautifully into the new school year. Their adjustment from Grade R has been remarkable, as they have quickly embraced the daily routines, more extended learning periods, and structured activities.

It has been heart-warming to observe how they have formed lasting friendships and seamlessly integrated into the "big kid" environment of primary school.

Each day, I witness their growing confidence and independence.
Our young learners have made significant progress in their reading skills. Many now confidently read simple books independently, sounding out new words with increasing fluency.

The students have particularly enjoyed the practice sessions in handwriting, mastering techniques such as "starting at the top" and "keeping letters on the line." Many have shown impressive improvement in both their letter formation and spacing.

In Mathematics, we have been exploring numbers up to 100, practicing skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s, and learning essential addition and subtraction strategies.


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Luphiwo with the “Wiggly Man" he made in Art.

Liphathwe, Lucgobo, Ithandile, Luphiwo and Oluthando “posing” with Gentleman: The Grade 1 Class Plant.

Liphathwe enjoying buying items at the “Tuck Shop”.

Mrs Cavanagh visiting the Grade 2 & 3 class.

## CONTINUED...

A highlight in the Grade 1 class was our "tuck shop" activity, where the children enjoyed practicing their counting and money skills by sorting coins and making change. This hands-on experience has made learning about money both educational and engaging, and we will continue to build on these foundational skills throughout the year.

Our Valentine's Day celebration was a tremendous success. The students created beautiful handmade cards and crafts for their loved ones. The art activity was particularly enjoyable, and seeing the students' creativity shine was a joy.

We are looking forward to an even more successful second half of Term 1 and are excited about our students' continued growth and development.

# Grade 2 & 3 News

### WRITTEN BY AUNTY TEDDY

This term has been both exciting and enriching.
We began by getting to know each other and helping the Grade 2 students adjust to being part of a mixed-grade class.

Mathematics has been a highlight, particularly our favorite activity, numbersense exercises.

Our studies included learning about ocean animals, plants, and the bacteria that inhabit the seas.

We created heartfelt cards for our friends and families for Valentine's Day.

Sports activities like tennis, cricket, and soccer have been enjoyable. After weeks of hard work, we were thrilled to win our final soccer match 3-0 against King's Kids.

We also had the opportunity to choose clubs that matched our interests, including options for Science, Design, Performing Arts, Chess, and Cooking clubs.

A special surprise came when Mrs. C visited and introduced us to baby Miané.

We are eagerly looking forward to the rest of the term.



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The Grade 4's & 5's cooling off after a very hot day.

Xenia's first day in Grade 2.

Grade 2's & 3's in Art Class.

## Grade 4 & 5 News

**WRITTEN BY MISS HOMAN**

As we wrap the first half of the term, it's inspiring to reflect on the hard work, dedication, and growth our Grade 4 and 5 learners have shown in their academic journey. From mastering new concepts to improving problem-solving skills, learners have made significant strides in their learning.

The Grade 4 learners have delved deeper into mathematics, exploring whole numbers, rounding off, addition and subtraction, and data handling. Their enthusiasm in all learning areas has been evident through classroom discussions and the development of their critical thinking skills.

The Grade 5 learners have genuinely excelled in their studies this term. Their mastery of multiplication and division has provided them with the tools needed to tackle more advanced mathematical concepts. Social sciences have taken them on a journey through history, deepening their understanding of the world and how past events shape our present and future.

Both Grade 4 and 5 learners have shown impressive growth in their academic skills. The consistent effort to improve in reading comprehension, problem-solving, and time management has been outstanding. I am particularly proud of how learners are taking ownership of their learning, setting personal goals, and working collaboratively to achieve them.

As we move into the next half of the term, I am excited to see how learners will continue to build on their achievements. A continued focus will be on strengthening core skills with new challenges and projects to inspire deeper exploration and creativity.

We encourage parents to stay engaged in their child's academic progress, as your support plays a vital role in their success.

Learners' enjoying Science Club.

CJ reading to children at Newton Primary School.



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Our cooking club members harvesting veggies from our veggie garden.

Our seniors on their way to Newtown Primary school for read aloud day.

# Grade 6 & 7 News

WRITTEN BY MISS BEZUIDENHOUT

**An Exciting Start to Term 1!**

The first few weeks of Term 1 have been filled with creativity, kindness, and community spirit! Our students have been busy making a difference, from testing engineering skills to spreading joy through reading and fundraising.

Our young engineers took on the Spaghetti Bridge Challenge, designing and building bridges strong enough to support up to 4kg - a true test of teamwork and innovation!

In an act of generosity, we visited a less fortunate school, where our learners read stories to younger children, inspiring a love for books and learning. This experience also reminded us to be appreciative and grateful for what we have, as we witnessed the resilience and joy of children with far fewer resources.

To top it off, we launched a lollipop flower fundraiser for the Grade 7 farewell, turning sweet treats into a successful fundraising effort!

With so much accomplished already, we can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings!



CJ, Tafara and Luniko building their bridge for PBL.

Our Grade 6 & 7 learners busy with their PBL lesson.



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Tafara during his chess match

CJ during his chess match

Uya very excited to start his match

Luniko having a blast at the Chess Tournament

Chess players in Grahamstown at Sarah Baartman District Trials

# Chess News

**WRITTEN BY MR. HARTWIG**

Chess this year is kicking off with a bang, picking up from the momentum of last year, thanks largely to our coach, sensei Leroy Maisiri, and, of course, the talented players themselves!

We participated in our first 2025 Sarah Baartman District Chess Trials in Grahamstown last Saturday, 22 February, and have three to go - the best three results determine the players' points!

**Report on 22 February Trials**

What a great first round of Chess Trials!
Achumile achieved first place in u/12 and Tafara very nearly achieved a medal in u/14, missing it by decimals in the chess rounding formula.
We traveled to Grahamstown, played 5 rounds, and came back proud of our players!
Each of them gave of their best and most improved on previous results.
A long day, but well worth it for experience and growth.

We are almost at the end of the in-house round-robin to establish our leaderboard and crown the Kat River Prep King/Queen.

Achumile receiving a medal for placing first in the u/11 age group.



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Juniors hard at work during their mini-cricket practice.

# Sport News

**WRITTEN BY MR. HARTWIG**

Once again, our kids participated in all the available sports, learned, grew, developed new skills, and challenged themselves to new heights.

From cross-country to tennis and mini-cricket, fun and good clean competition were enjoyed by all. The focus for this half-term's inter-school sport was football, where almost all of the children participated.

Three matches were played against Yellowwoods, and three against King's Kids.

Players endured the rain, the stifling heat and the humidity, all to represent their team and their school. Some interesting new soccer moves were invented, including the Shakira-hip defense and the front-on-bulldozer attack, as some intense skills were displayed, particularly amongst our future Banyana-Banyana stars!

It was wonderful to see budding interest and growing self-belief as players gained experience. Win-or-lose, bus trips back were packed with deafening songs of love for each player and staff member of Kat River Valley.

Goal scorers were Lunico (u11) with 6; Enzo, Uzzi and Aya with 3; Elona and Aseko with 2; Inathi and Tafara with 1, while Solu saved countless goals, making for some very entertaining football.

Seniors battling it out during a soccer match against Kings Kids.

Pre-Primary enjoying their sporting activities.

Juniors enjoying soccer practice.

Aluthando practising her tennis skills.

Juniors working on their fitness.