

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE 1



Inside the issue

HEAD OF SCHOOL
RECAP

TEACHER NEWS

SPORT NEWS

CHESS

MEET THE
TEACHER

READ ALOUD DAY

IMPORTANT DATES

School Starts

Wednesday, 4 March 2026

Parent / Teacher Meetings

**Tuesday - Thursday
11 - 12 March 2026**

Books2u Book Fair

Friday, 20 March 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians, **WRITTEN BY MR VAN VUUREN, HEAD OF SCHOOL**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the new school year and to share some positive news from our first six weeks back at school.

The year has got off to a very good start. From the first day, our learners settled in quickly and showed a wonderful willingness to engage with their schoolwork. Classrooms have been filled with focus, enthusiasm, and a genuine eagerness to learn, which has been encouraging to see. There has been a strong sense of positive energy among both learners and staff, setting a great tone for the year ahead.

As a school, our vision is "Together we grow." This speaks to the importance of partnership between learners, staff, and parents, as well as our shared commitment to academic progress, personal development, and well-being. The positive start to the year has already reflected this vision in action.

Beyond the classroom, our learners have also been active on the sports field. Soccer and tennis practices have been well underway, with them showing commitment, teamwork, and enjoyment as they develop their skills and fitness. It is always pleasing to see such enthusiasm for sport and healthy participation. We have been monitoring the heat index, and when we cancel sports on the day, then they go to their register Teachers and homework is done during that session.

I do, however, want to make a special mention to three of our learners who have achieved success in the South African Junior Closed Chess Championship, which is a prestigious event where they participate nationally. Congratulations to Achumile Makwetu, Saron and Eldana Tadesse.

We look forward to building on this excellent start as the year progresses, and thank you for your continued support of the school.

Enjoy your half-term break.



Okwenam proudly showing her fishing bowl creation.



Pre-Primary learners celebrating Valentines Day.



Sibuve enjoying playtime on the swing.



Lunake having fun building puzzles.

Pre-Primary News WRITTEN BY MISS COETZER

What a wonderful and exciting start to Term 1 we have had! Our classroom has been filled with laughter, creativity and beautiful learning moments as the children settled into their routines and grew more confident each day.

Kulowo proudly showed off his playdough circle, demonstrating excellent fine motor skills and growing confidence as he shared his work with the class. It has been wonderful to see the children express themselves through creative play activities. On Read Aloud Day, Imani and Imfudumalo thoroughly enjoyed their story. Story time continues to be a special part of our classroom routine, helping to develop listening skills, imagination and a love for books.

Lunake has been enjoying puzzle time, showing patience and strong problem-solving skills while carefully completing each puzzle. These activities are helping to build concentration and perseverance.

We also celebrated a very special milestone as Khwezi and Aphiwe shared their birthday celebration with their classmates. The children loved singing and celebrating together, creating happy memories as a class.

Okwenam proudly showed her fishing bowl creation, displaying wonderful focus and creativity. Hands-on activities like these allow the children to explore, learn and build confidence in their abilities. Sibuve has been enjoying playtime on the swing, developing balance and coordination while having fun outdoors.

Finally, our whole class enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day together. It was a lovely opportunity to focus on kindness, friendship and caring for one another as we continue building a warm and supportive classroom community.

I am so proud of how beautifully the children have grown during Term 1, and I look forward to many more special memories together.



Khwezi and Aphiwe celebrating their special birthday together.



Imfudumalo proudly showing his fishing bowl creation.



Likhaya enjoying read aloud day.



Grade R's learning about more or less.



Mukundi busy with Maths during Mat work.

Grade R News

WRITTEN BY AUNTY THABI

What an amazing start to our Grade R class. Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement and lots of happy voices. We have warmly welcomed three new learners, Libongwe, Awomi and Kayden. They have settled in beautifully and we are so happy to have them as part of our Grade R family.

Over the past few weeks, we have explored the following themes: All about me, At school, In the classroom, Books and Days of the week. During our All about me theme, learners confidently shared their interests and special things about themselves. This activity encourages confidence and self-expression and helps us to learn more about one another.

Our learners have been working hard learning the phonetic sounds and recognizing the letters. In Numeracy, we have been focusing on number recognition and counting skills. It is wonderful to see the learners participating in these activities and learning through play during our class activities.

Our learners had fun on Read Aloud Day, where they joined their seniors in the shade to listen to a variety of exciting stories. The learners loved being outside and using their imaginations while enjoying the wonderful world of storytelling.

We are proud of the progress they have made so far this term.



Imfudumalo and Libongwe ready for a swim.



Grade R's celebrating Valentine's Day.

Yeabnat, Hinaye, Lizelande and Beloved enjoying the pool.



Yeabnat & Beloved with their beautiful Valentine's Day art.

Grade 1 News WRITTEN BY MISS BOTHA

A Fantastic Start to the Year!

What a wonderful and exciting start we have had to the year in Grade 1. The children have settled into their new classroom routines beautifully and have adapted so quickly to the "big school" environment.

We are very proud of how confident, enthusiastic, and eager they are to learn each day.

One of the highlights of the term was our fun classroom scavenger hunt. The learners had an absolute blast searching for clues, working together, and exploring their new learning space. It was a fantastic way to build teamwork, listening skills, and classroom confidence while having lots of fun.

Our learners have also been very motivated by earning Bee Bucks for their hard work, good behaviour, and positive attitudes. They loved saving their Bee Bucks and buying special items from the Bee Bucks shop. This has encouraged responsibility, goal setting, and excitement about doing their best every day.

We have been focusing on getting to know one another, learning our classroom rules, and practising good routines. It has been lovely to see new friendships forming and learners showing kindness and respect towards one another.

Well done to all our Grade 1 learners for such a positive start to the year. We wish everyone a happy and restful mid-term break and look forward to another exciting few weeks of learning and growing together.



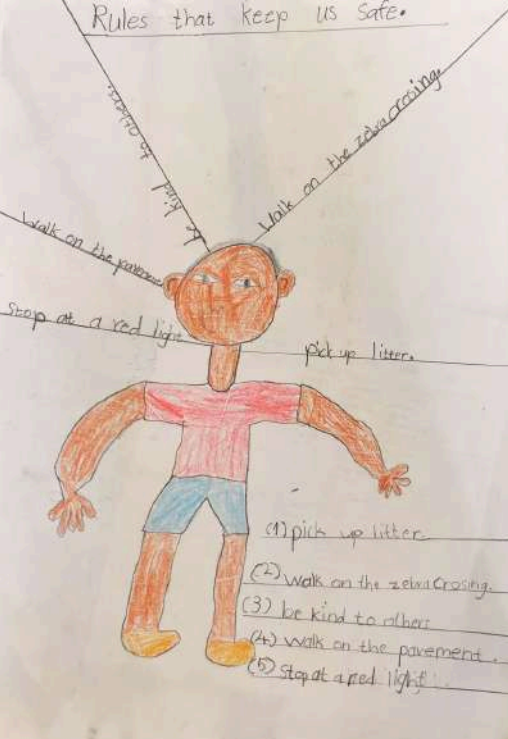
Lubanzi loving his new reading book!



Hinaye, Lizelande & Beloved completing their scavenger hunt.



Our Grade 1's with some Valentine's Day spoils.



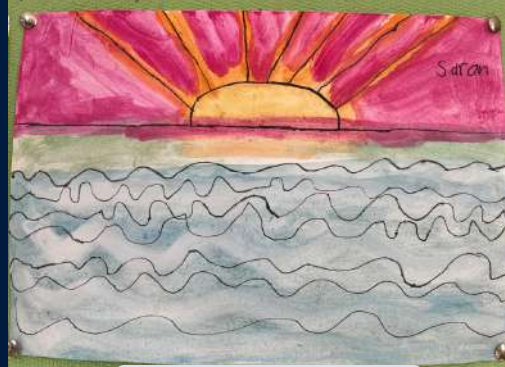
Chulumanco building a house with 2D shapes.



Ithandile with her beautiful Valentine's Day cards!



Saron reading aloud to the class about "My Family".



Warm and cool colour sunset paintings.



Working together in groups to make posters about "Rules that keep us safe".

Grade 2 & 3 News

WRITTEN BY MISS SOUTHEY

Our Grade 2 and 3 learners have had a busy and exciting start to the term! In Life Skills, we explored the theme "My Family." We looked at how everyone's family might look different to each other's, but that they are no less special. We further brought in Language for the Grade 3's by asking learners to prepare and read aloud a short piece of writing about events from the life of someone special in their family. The Grade 2's and I were so proud of their growing confidence, expression and reading skills as they shared meaningful stories with the class. The Grade 2's are very excited to participate next year.

We also discussed "Rules that keep us safe" and what it means to be a good citizen. The learners worked together in groups to create colourful posters showing how we can follow rules, respect others and take care of our community. It was wonderful to see such teamwork and thoughtful ideas.

During Creative Arts, we learnt about warm and cool colours. The class enjoyed experimenting with different shades to make a lovely sunset picture and learnt to identify which colours belong in each group. Their artwork brightened up our classroom beautifully!

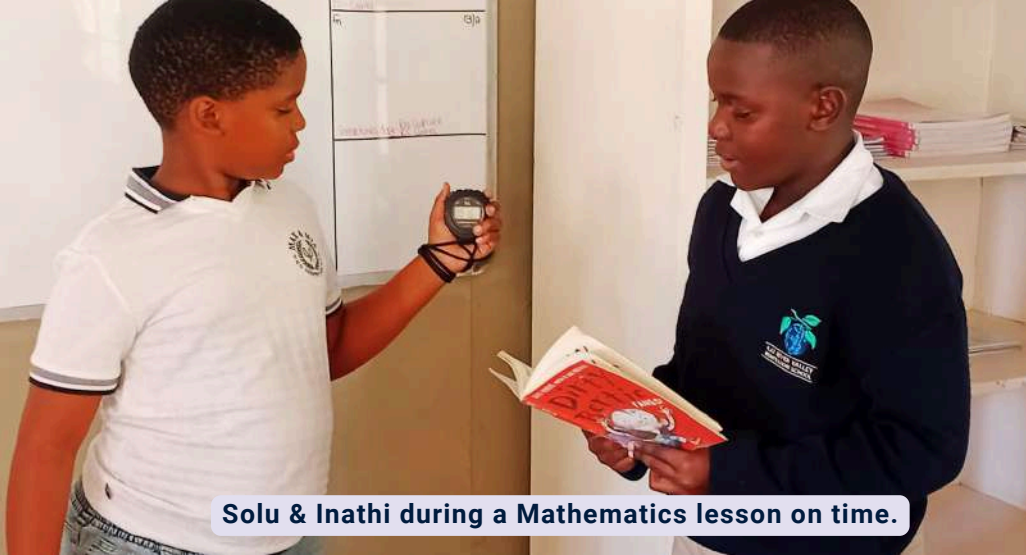
Our learners have also been working hard on the mat in Mathematics. We have been practising important concepts such as addition, subtraction, place value and early multiplication. The children are developing strong number sense and growing in confidence each day.

Of course, there has also been time for fun! The learners loved making Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones, putting great care and creativity into each one. We also celebrated Read Aloud Day, which was made extra special when Grade 7 learners read stories in groups to our class and other grades. What a wonderful way to share the joy of reading!

We are so proud of the effort, enthusiasm and positive attitudes our Grade 2 and 3 learners have shown so far this year.



Lunje & Ithandile learning about addition on the mat.



Solu & Inathi during a Mathematics lesson on time.



Ongama, Onika, Baphelele & Solule with their skeletons.

Grade 4 & 5 News

WRITTEN BY MISS BEZUIDENHOUT

We have had a wonderful and productive start to the term in both Grade 4 and Grade 5!

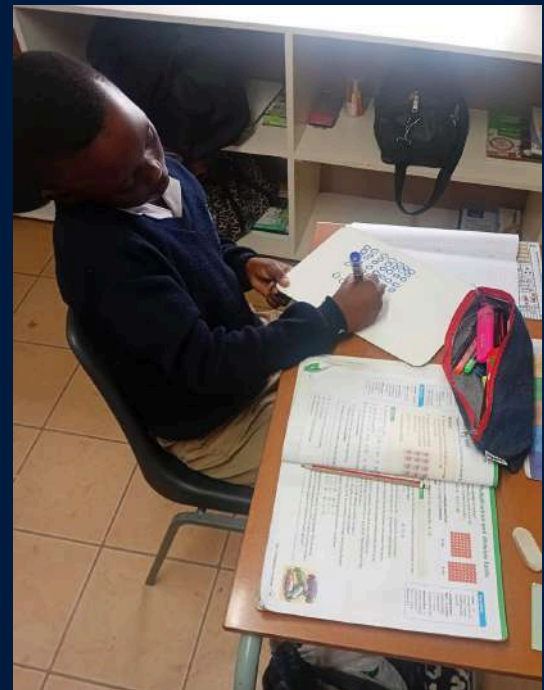
In our Computer lessons, learners have been introduced to the basics of using computers correctly and responsibly. We have focused on understanding how to use technology in an ethical way, including respecting equipment, protecting personal information, and practising good digital citizenship. The learners have shown great enthusiasm as they build their confidence with these important skills.

In Mathematics, we are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by both grades. They have been experimenting with different methods of calculating number sentences. Their commitment and positive attitudes toward learning are truly commendable.

The classes have also spent time getting to know one another better and adjusting to their new classroom environments by having picnics together at the end of the week. It has been wonderful to see new friendships forming and learners settling in comfortably.

Our Grade 4 learners have successfully written their first few cycle tests. We are very proud of the effort they put into their preparation and the positive attitude they showed during this important milestone. These early assessments help build confidence and set the tone for the rest of the year.

In Natural Sciences, learners thoroughly enjoyed learning about the human skeleton. They have been exploring the different bones in the body, understanding how the skeleton supports and protects us, and discovering how amazing the human body truly is!



Enzo looking at the different ways of doing multiplication.



Asekho, Uya and Sivu having fun with skeletons.



Baphelele looking at the different ways of doing multiplication.



Meet the

TEACHER

All About Me



Hello, I'm Miss Charné Bezuidenhout also known as Miss B among the learners. I love helping children discover new ways of learning that make understanding easier and more enjoyable. My goal is to specialise in remedial teaching one day, as I am passionate about making a difference and helping every learner recognise their unique strengths.

Hobbies

When I'm not at school, you'll usually find me busy tinkering or building something, creating new things, experimenting with my boys or testing out a new recipe.

A place I'd love to visit

I would love to visit Egypt because its rich history and its incredible architecture truly fascinates me. Exploring a country so deeply connected to ancient civilizations and timeless design would be an unforgettable experience.



Favourite Things



- Colour: Mint
- Food: Top Deck Chocolate and Asian food.
- Season: Spring, because everything feels fresh and I absolutely LOVE flowers.
- Animal: Owl. I find them very majestic, observant and a perfect example to always be patient.

What we love about Miss B:

By the Grade 4s & 5s

MISS B IS KIND AND SHE HAS A KIND HEART. SHE LOVES TEACHING KIDS.

MISS B IS THE BEST TEACHER AND I LOVE YOU MISS B!
XOXO

I LOVE MISS BE BECAUSE SHE TEACHES ME

I LOVE MISS B BECAUSE IF WE MAKE MISTAKES IN OUR WORK, SHE GIVES US A SECOND CHANCE.

I LOVE MISS B BECAUSE SHE IS ALWAYS HELPING ME WHEN I NEED HELP AND SHE IS ALWAYS HAPPY.

I LIKE MISS B BECAUSE SHE LET'S US PLAY

I LIKE IT WHEN MISS B LET'S US SWIM AND I LIKE IT WHEN MISS B GIVES ME HUGS.

I LOVE MISS B FOR SHOWING HER KINDNESS TO US.

I LIKE MISS B BECAUSE SHE IS KIND TO US. SHE MAKES US SMART.

I LIKE MISS B BECAUSE SHE IS SO KIND AND HELPFUL AND LOVELY.



Miss B with her Grade 4 & 5 learners.

Grade 6 & 7 News

WRITTEN BY MRS CAVANAGH

Dear Grade 6 and 7 Learners,

We started the term on a strong note, diving straight into our academics and setting a high standard for the weeks ahead. With cycle tests every week from the very first week, you have shown remarkable resilience and discipline, approaching each assessment with focus and pride. It is clear that every one of you is eager to learn more and take ownership of your work, which is exactly the mindset that leads to real growth.

I have particularly enjoyed observing your active participation in Afrikaans lessons. Seeing you engage, listen, and contribute so confidently has made these classes both energizing and rewarding. Your willingness to participate not only enhances your own learning but also enriches the entire class discussion.

We had a very meaningful fundraiser in support of our Grade 7 leavers' dinner. Thank you to each of the learners who supported the cause.

Another highlight this term was our Read Aloud Day, when the Grade 6 and 7 learners read books under the trees for the rest of the school day. It was wonderful to see you sharing stories with such clarity and expression, and the rest of the school clearly enjoyed listening to your voices and performances.

As we look ahead to the second half of the term, we have a busy and exciting schedule planned. We will continue to build on your strengths, tackle new challenges, and support one another as a team. Remember to maintain your routines, manage your time effectively, and stay curious about the subjects you study.

Enjoy a well-deserved rest, and come back ready to tackle the next term with energy and purpose. I am incredibly proud of each of you, and I look forward to all the achievements the remainder of the year will bring.



Gqwesa reading to others on read aloud day.



Haylen during an Afrikaans lesson.



Grade 7's busy with their Mona Lisa art projects



Our Grade 7's hard at work during their English Test.



CJ, Kwanga & Aldana playing chess.



Grade 6 & 7's enjoying a dip in the pool on a hot summers day.

Sport News

SOCCER

WRITTEN BY COACH SYDNEY

The first term of soccer has been an encouraging and rewarding season for our teams. The U11 and U13 sides delivered outstanding performances in their fixtures against Yellowwoods, consistently demonstrating determination, discipline, and teamwork. Beyond the results, what stood out most was the character and maturity the players showed on and off the field. They competed with confidence, respected their opponents, and upheld the true spirit of the game.

For our U9 group, the focus this term was on building strong foundations. We concentrated on teaching the basics of soccer, including ball control, passing, positioning, and understanding the rules of the game. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of wearing shin guards at every practice and match to promote safety and responsibility.

More importantly, we encouraged sportsmanship, respect, and a positive attitude, key qualities in becoming well-rounded sportsmen and sportswomen.

Overall, it has been a term filled with growth, commitment, and pride, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the coming months.



Our seniors during their soccer match.



Juniors during a tennis practice drill.



Seniors during a tennis practice drill.

TENNIS

WRITTEN BY MISS BEZUIDENHOUT

The learners have been showing great enthusiasm and commitment on the court, and it has been wonderful to see their skills developing week by week. During our sessions, we have been focusing strongly on improving overall fitness, building quicker reflexes, and developing solid ball skills. Learners have been working hard on coordination, footwork, reaction speed, and controlled hitting.

These foundational skills are essential in helping them grow in confidence and improve their overall performance.

We have experienced a few particularly hot days recently. On those days, for the safety and wellbeing of our learners, practice was unfortunately cancelled as outdoor activity in extreme heat can pose health risks. The safety of our learners always remains our top priority.

On the days when practice continued, learners showed resilience and determination, putting in great effort and maintaining positive attitudes. It has been encouraging to see their teamwork, sportsmanship, and willingness to challenge themselves.

We are proud of the progress being made and look forward to seeing continued growth and development throughout the season.

CHESS

WRITTEN BY LEROY MAISIRI

As we reflect on the past season and look ahead to an even bigger year, we do so with deep gratitude and determination.

In 2025, Kat River Chess Club launched a fundraising campaign to send eight qualifying players to the MyMZansi Interprovincial Tournament.

Thanks to our supporters, every rand for travel, accommodation, and expenses was raised. Not one learner was left behind.

That investment delivered historic results.

Historic Achievements at MyMZansi

Competing against nine provinces, the Eastern Cape achieved:

- 3rd place – Team Event
- 1st place – Individual Event (dominating positions 1–10)
- 2nd place overall – Combined categories

Kat River players played a decisive role:

- **Eldana Tadesse (U14 Girls)** – Highest points contribution
- **Saron Tadesse (U10 Girls)** – Highest contribution
- **Achumile Makwetu (U12 Boys)** – Won 5 of 6 games

In the individual section — the pathway to SAJCC qualification — three Kat River players advanced:

- **Eldana Tadesse**
- **Saron Tadesse**
- **Achumile Makwetu**

Eldana defeated two Women Regional Masters and drew one, finishing national top 10 at number 9. Saron, only in Grade 2, showed exceptional focus across long tournament days.

These achievements reflect discipline, preparation, belief — and opportunity. Most importantly, our learners proved they belong among the best in the country.

2026: The Work Has Begun

Our goals for 2026:

- Compete in 6 of the 9 Sarah Baartman District Trials
- Increase provincial colours
- Qualify more players for SAJCC
- Expand competitive exposure

Several learners have already been selected for the Spartans Bishop Inter-Regional Tournament in May.

At our first tournament of the year in Makhanda, results included:

- **Yeabnat Tadesse** – Gold
- **Saron Tadesse** – Gold
- **Enzokuhle Bless** – Bronze
- **Inathi Dlepu** – Bronze

Looking Ahead

What began as fundraising has grown into a culture of excellence and belief.

To every supporter, donor, parent, and well-wisher — thank you.

You invested in futures and possibility.

The board is set. The pieces are moving.

2026 is ours to play. ♟️



Saron receiving her medal.



Yeabnat, our youngest player, receiving her medal.



Inathi receiving his medal.