



Our Lady of Fatima
Dominican Convent School
EST. 1954

FATIMA FOCUS

The official newsletter of Our Lady of Fatima Dominican Convent School



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we begin Term 2, the pace of school life accelerates quickly. In the higher grades we have exams ahead, and for everyone the winter extracurricular is already underway. With full schedules across academics, sport and culture, it is a term that will ask much of our girls.

At the start of a term like this, mindset matters. In *Cars*, Lightning McQueen is asked how he knew he could do something difficult. His answer: "I just didn't think I couldn't." I love this reply because it's a simple but powerful way to approach challenge. Too often, girls (and ourselves if we are honest) decide something is too hard before they've even started.

A better place to begin is this: I haven't done it yet, but I haven't decided I can't. This doesn't remove the need for hard work. Term 2 will require discipline, good routines, and the ability to keep going when things feel demanding. There will be moments of pressure, but also real opportunities for growth. As a school, we will support and guide our girls through this. At home, your encouragement and structure remain key.

As we step into the weeks ahead, our encouragement to each girl is simple: Don't decide you can't before you begin. Lean into the work. Stay consistent. And allow yourself to be surprised by what you are capable of. We look forward to all that Term 2 will hold, both in achievement and in the character that is formed along the way.

Chantal Lourens

FAITH AND FLOURISH

His Tangible Presence ; A Gift to Us

As we begin this new term, we find ourselves still within one of the most beautiful seasons of our liturgical calendar; an eight-Sunday celebration of the goodness of what God has done for us.

Easter is not just a moment; it is an unfolding reminder of hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we are given life, restoration, and promise. But even more than that, we are given something deeply personal , God's tangible presence with us.

From the very beginning, this is what God has always desired. In the garden with Adam and Eve, His longing was simple and profound: to be close to us, to walk with us, to be known by us, and for us to experience the fullness of life found in His presence.

Throughout Scripture, we see this desire again and again , God drawing near to His people. In the Ark of the Covenant, His presence dwelt among them. And now, through Easter, that same presence is no longer distant or contained , it lives within us through the Holy Spirit.

What a gift.

It reminds me of a song called " So Good to me" by Elevation Worship:

"You have been so good to me,

God I can't believe how You love me. What a friend You have been"

What a friend we have , a God who walks with us into this term, who has gone before us, who remains with us not just in spirit, but in a real and tangible way because He loves us.

And perhaps the question we carry into this new term is this:

Will we recognise His presence? Will we make space for it?

In the busyness, the pressures, the routines; will we pause long enough to notice that we are not walking alone?

God has chosen to be close to us.

He has chosen to dwell within us.

What a gift.

What a friend He has been, and continues to be

With Love and Faith

Miss Nanak

STAFF NEWS



We are delighted to warmly welcome Mrs Sarita Pelser to the Fatima family. It is truly a pleasure to have her join our team, and we are excited about the journey ahead together.

PARENTS' CORNER

HOSTED BY
OUR LADY OF FATIMA DCS
CURIOSITY | OWNERSHIP | RESILIENCE | EMPATHY

SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

PRIMARY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

FOR THOSE PASSIONATE ABOUT NURTURING THE CORE SEEDS THAT CHILDREN NEED TO FLOURISH.

SATURDAY **16** MAY '26 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
DR GILLIAN ARENDESE - DEBBIE DE JONG -
YOLISWA MAZIBUKO - NATALIE NAUDE

TIME: 08H30 - 13H00 - TICKET: R250 PP

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CFULLER@FATIMA.CO.ZA

FOUNDATION PHASE



Many Fatima girls represented proudly at the Life Saving Nippers Championships last term, earning valuable points for their club. Well done to our FP participants: **Indigo Gunther** (Grade 3), **Amy Herselman** (Grade 3) and **Kiara Govender** (Grade 3), as well as Gaby Chedzey in Grade 4.



Over the holidays, **Ashleigh Muchauraya** (Grade 2) competed in the KZN Level 1 Championships at the Rachel Finlayson Pool in Durban. In her first long-course meet, she swam in the U9 girls category and delivered outstanding results, winning gold in the 50m fly (PB), silver in the 50m breaststroke (PB), and achieving personal bests in both the 50m and 100m freestyle.

SENIOR PRIMARY

This past holiday **Rosetta Evans** and **Mia Govender** represented KZN U12B in the Action Netball IPT which was held from the 26-30 March.

Both girls worked incredibly hard, played with great commitment, and were proud contributors to their U12B team, which went on to win the plate final.



Mufaro Kachisi participated in the Level 3 South Africa Swimming Champs over the holidays where she obtained a silver medal in 200m breast stroke. Well Done, Mufaro.



On 14th and 15th March, **Willow and Harris Gunther** participated in the 34th edition of the Sea Harvest Grommet Games that took place at Dairy Beach, Durban. They represented the ESA team and both won their respective divisions u14 girls and u12 girls.

On 21st and 22nd March both competed in the Quicksilver King of the Groms competition also held at Dairy Beach, Durban. Harris Gunther won 2nd place in her u12 age group division.



HIGH SCHOOL

A massive congratulations to our 1st Team Hockey and 1st Team Netball on their outstanding performances! Placing in the top 10 in any of these tournaments is no easy feat.

Our hockey girls competed at the St Mary's Waverley Tournament, finishing an impressive 6th out of 32 teams, while our netball girls had their best-ever result at the St Andrew's Tournament, finishing an incredible 3rd out of 28 teams. (1st position was tied by three school in points and we placed 3rd on goal difference).

We are extremely proud of both teams and the way they represented the school!



We are very proud of all our girls who represented KZN in their various Action Netball teams this past holiday. Well done to the teams on their amazing results and a special shout out to the three girls on their incredible SA squad selections! These squads will train over the course of the year, before a final team will be announced.

- **Isabella Kitching**
- **Mihlali Tshobisa**
- **Zoë Ngema**



This past holiday, our girls participated in five tours, competing against strong opposition from across the country.

- Our U14A hockey team attended the St John's Tournament and finished an outstanding 2nd overall, narrowly losing to Oranje School in the final. A special congratulations to Alexa Engelbrecht, who was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament.
- Our U16A hockey team competed at the St Mary's Tournament, finishing 5th overall after a tough quarter-final loss.
- Our U14, U15, and U16 netball teams travelled to the Waterkloof Festival, where they faced strong competition and performed at a high level winning throughout the tournament.

U14 Played 9 - won 7 - lost 2

U15 Played 10 - won 9 - lost 1

U16 Played 10 - won 6 - drew 1 - lost 3



A number of our girls participated and excelled in the **Level 3 South Africa Swimming Champs** over the holidays. Their results were:

Tayla Brown: **Gold:** 100m Backstroke

Silver: 50m Backstroke

Isabella van Rooyen: **Gold:** 4 x 50m Medley

Silver: 100m and 200m Backstroke

Bronze: 4 x 50m Mixed Medley

Tayla Stuart: **Gold:** 100m Butterfly, 4 x 50m Medley

Bronze: 50m Freestyle, 4 x 50m Mixed Medley, 4 x 100m Free, 4 x 100m Free

Evalyn Brown: **Gold:** 50m Breaststroke and 4x 50m Medley

Bronze: 4x 50m Freestyle and 4x 100m Freestyle

Amber Leibbrandt: **Gold:** 4 x 50 Medley

Silver: 50m Freestyle

Bronze: 4 x 50m Freestyle and 4 x 100m Freestyle



Saskya Kistnasami participated in the **SA Junior Nationals**

Gold: 50m freestyle

Bronze: 50m breaststroke, 100m freestyle

5th: 50m butterfly



Amy Brown competed in the **SA Youth Nationals**

Top 10 for 100m backstroke and 50m backstroke

And top 15 for 50m butterfly

Grace Coetzer, Olivia Morris and Lucy Harker competed at the SA Lifesaving Champs in Port Elizabeth from 30 March - 1 April.

Highlights were:

Grace - Gold in the Senior Ladies Board Relay, Bronze in Senior Ladies Taplin and 4th in the U19 Surf ski race.

Olivia - 7th in Board Relay and Ski Relay, 8th in Ironman, 10th in the Surf Ski, 12th in Mali Board and Flags

Lucy - Silver in Ironman, Run Swim Run and Mali Board, Bronze in Surf swim and 3rd overall in her age group





On just the second day of school, our dedicated runners hit the ground running at the first league race hosted by Kloof High School delivering outstanding results!

U17

- Alexis Hewitt – 1st place
- Amber Leibbrandt – 6th place

U19

- Ava Moore – 1st place

Here's to an exciting year ahead!

Ava Moore has been busy with her Triathlon this year representing South Africa at two Africa Cup events:

Joburg – 7th place

Namibia – 4th place

Ava also recently competed at the SA Champs in Mossel Bay, representing KZN, and finished with a strong 10th place!



Amber Leibbrandt competed at the SA National Biathlon Championship where she placed 17th out of 53 U17 competitors and was awarded KZN colours. She then competed in a Biathle league event and placed 2nd with a qualifying time for KZN champs in May and SA Champs in July.



Alexis Hewitt took part in the SA Triathlon Champs & Africa Cup : She placed 3rd in SA in her age group 16-17 years. She also competed in the age group 16-19 years and placed 6th overall.

NEWS

Congratulations to Sarah Smith, who competed at the Global Dance Open in Roodepoort this March and delivered outstanding performances in ballet and contemporary. Her exceptional results have earned her a place on the South African team. We wish Sarah every success as she prepares for this exciting opportunity.



ANNUAL SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Term one concluded on a Humanities highlight with our annual school production, Bright. Young. Minds. Intelligently constructed, it balanced humour with moments of genuine depth, exploring emotions and experiences that the audience could recognise and connect with.

Congratulations to the cast, who skilfully crafted characters that were bold and brave yet grounded in reality; the backstage crew and technical team, whose quiet precision allowed the cast to shine; and Mrs Jordaan, whose creative vision and strong directorial hand shaped this most memorable production.

