



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

There is something about Durban in autumn that always feels grounding to me. The mornings are cooler, the humidity lifts, the light softens and the pretty pinks in the evening sunsets make the end of the day feel more peaceful as well. It is no wonder so many people say we have the best climate in the world. Autumn in Durban does not arrive dramatically. It arrives gently, almost quietly, and perhaps that is part of its beauty.

Coming back from this short break and into the true rhythm of Term 2, we are spending time encouraging our girls to reflect on the different seasons of life, the mountain tops, the valleys and the ordinary in between. So often we celebrate the big moments of success or achievement, yet the reality is that much of life is lived quietly in the middle ground of everyday routines, responsibilities, disappointments, growth and perseverance.

Mother Rose's words which have inspired our theme this year also encourages us to "take the daily ups and downs" and it feels particularly meaningful in this space. They are simple, honest and deeply real. They remind us that life will naturally bring different seasons, and that there is value and growth to be found in all of them. Some seasons stretch us. Some restore us. Some simply ask us to keep showing up and moving forward one step at a time.

As we journey through this beautiful Durban autumn together, may we continue to take the daily ups and downs with courage, perspective and gratitude, and as always may we continue to come alongside one another through every season of the journey.

C .Lourens

FAITH AND FLOURISH

In the Gospel this past weekend we hear Jesus respond to His disciples, saying: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these he will do.” John (14:1–12),

This line has stayed with me. As I watch the girls, I notice how these young hands and hearts are truly doing exactly as Jesus did. Through their Interact programmes, our whole-school service projects—like working with Osizweni Primary School to create a library for their learners, our crochet and knitting blanket drive—or even in the small, quiet moments in RE lessons.

As we celebrate the month of May, and the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, we are reminded of her gentle “yes” to God. Mary did not do anything extraordinary in the eyes of the world, yet through her faith and trust, she made space for God to do something extraordinary through her. In Fatima, she appeared to three young children, reminding them—and us—of the power of prayer, of conversion, and of simple acts of love offered to God.

There is something so fitting in this for our school community. Just like the children of Fatima, our girls are young, yet capable of deep faith and great love. Through small acts of kindness, service, and faithfulness, the girls are able to live out their “yes,” responding to God’s call to service and prayer, and helping to bring about something extraordinary in the communities around them.

Perhaps that is the invitation for each of us this month: to say “yes” as Mary did, to trust as she trusted, and to believe deeply in Jesus’ words—that through Him, even our smallest actions can become something greater.

May we continue to grow as a community that lives out this Gospel, and may Our Lady of Fatima guide us in faith, hope, and love.

Miss T. Nanak

STAFF NEWS



Congratulations to Ms Erasmus on her engagement over the holidays, and congratulations to Ms Ntsangase on receiving a scholarship from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the 2026 academic year. Wishing them both continued happiness and success.

PARENTS’ CORNER



FOUNDATION PHASE



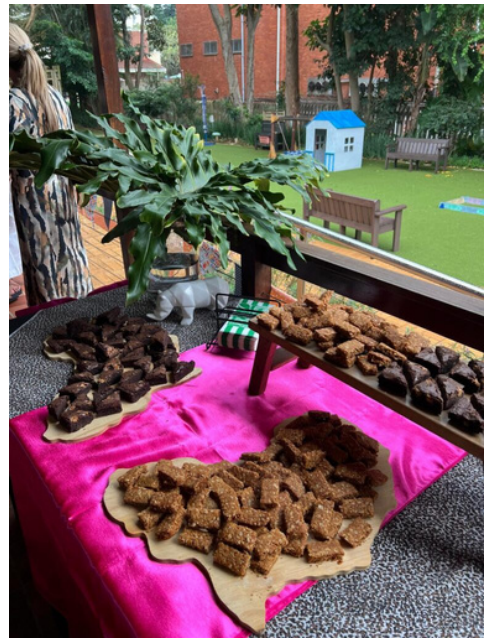
On the 18th of April our U9 A, B and C netball teams played against Glenwood Prep. The A & B team secured a strong win, the C team showed tremendous heart and determination throughout their match.



This year, six of our Fatima girls took part in the 2026 South African Lifesaving Championships held in Gqeberha, proudly representing their club, DSLC, across a range of beach and ocean events over three days. A very well-done to **Indigo Gunther** (Grade 3) on her outstanding results:

- 🏆 1st Mali
- 🏆 1st Flags
- 🥈 2nd Bodyboard
- 🥈 2nd Beach Run

MOTHER'S DAY TEA



SENIOR PRIMARY

SENIOR PRIMARY ACADEMIC AWARDS

We congratulate the following learners on achieving an aggregate of 80% or above in Term 1.

Grade 4

Charlotte Adams
Ava Akal
Tiana Brink
Bailey Chetty
Sophia De Lange
Nayomi Hansjee
Milena Luizinho
Sadie Mason
Kyla Massey
Elyssa Young

Grade 5

Ava Blom
Lily Fouche
Daniella Govender
Sophie Grossberg
Stella Harper
Mia Ludlow
Morgan Mainstone
Allegra Sessions
Grace van Niekerk
Grace Walker

Grade 6

Hayley Bonnin
Grace De Robillard
Georgia Dunlop
Morgan Elliot
Rosetta Evans
Mia Govender
Sophia Govender
Joey Gregory
Stella Lewis
Nqobile Nhassengo
Rheya Pillay
Ivy Power
Avarya Rampershad
Elizabeth Snyders
Irrim Tayob
Rachel Vermaak
Lily Walker

Grade 7

Lara Britz
Hanna Cassim
Erin Childs
Kate Hadiaris
Liya Jugath
Annabel Kruger
Sophie Leandy De Bufanos
Nyachello Lecheko
Aarya Maharaj
Emma Morgan
Ava Shotland
Charley Springate
Mereille Staebe
Dhiya Sukhraj
Emily Van Laun
Karien Van Schalkwyk
Mila Warther



EARTH DAY

In celebration of Earth Day on 22 April 2026, themed "Our Power, Our Planet," the Primary School Laudato Si' Club girls created a display to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. Following World Biodiversity Day, the girls planted a sensory garden featuring fragrant and medicinal plants. They enjoyed exploring the scents of lemon verbena and *Bulbine natalensis*, and were fascinated by the rose fragrance of rose pelargonium, a South African plant known for its calming and insect-repellent properties.



Mackenzie Barrie-Smith took part in the Chilli Runners 5km race on . She placed 12th overall out of 1862 runners. She was the 1st U14 female to finish.

Daniella Govender – Daniella Govender participated in the Abacus Maths Soroban Association of South Africa Championship in Johannesburg and has placed 3rd overall.



DEBATE

The Senior Primary Debating Team participated in Round One of the National Debating League on 23 April, debating against St Mary's and Star College. The team secured a win against Star College, Nyakallo Lecheko being named best speaker and lost to St Mary's, earning a total of 35 points. This places them fourth overall in the league at this stage. We wish the team continued success as they prepare for their remaining four debates.



The grade 6s had a wonderful time at Mac Nicols.



Congratulations to the following girls on their various netball selections!



	U11	U12	U13
Durban North	Anna Fabian Mia Ludlow Gianna Farinha Brooklyn Ramsay	Hayley Bonnin Joey Gregory	Dhiya Sukhraj
Umlazi		Mufaro Kachisi	
KZN		Rosetta Evans Mia Govender	

Our U13A team played against Hellenic School from Zimbabwe. Despite the gloomy and rainy weather conditions, the girls gave a fantastic effort in what was a spirited and highly competitive hockey match. We are very proud of our 1-0 win.



This year 6 of our Senior Primary Fatima girls took part in the 2026 South African Lifesaving Championships held in Gqeberha, where they strongly represented their club DSLC by competing in numerous beach and ocean events spread over 3 days.

- Willow Gunther** (grade 7)
- Charley Springate** (grade 7)
- Brooke Greenwood** (grade 6)
- Ruby Kitto** (grade 4)
- Harris Gunther** (grade 5)
- 1st Bodyboard
- 2nd Flags



HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to the following girls on their KZN Selection!



U14	Kacey-Lee Roberts	Mihlali Tshobisa	Grace Stephen
U15	Ayabonga Dlamini	Makhamahle Langa	
U16	Mika Gouws	Nomaswazi Vilakazi	Avela Ngubane
U18	Kenia Grote	Khanya Mkhize	Emma Schoombee



Congratulations to Saskya and Isabella who represented KZN at the recent swimming championships.

Saskya

Gold (x3): relays

Silver (x3): 50 m Free, 100 m Free, Relay

Bronze (x3): 50 m Butterfly, 50 m Breaststroke, Medley Relay

Saskya also broke the SA Schools Record for 50m Freestyle (finishing a very close 2nd)

5th: 100 m Breaststroke

Isabella

4th place – 50 m and 100 m Backstroke

6th place – 200 m Backstroke



Cross Country Results			
Roseway	Ava More U19 1st	Alexis Hewitt U17 2 nd	Amber Leibbrandt U17 6 th
Kearsney	Ava More U19 1st	Alexis Hewitt U17 2 nd	Amber Leibbrandt U17 8 th

Zoey Quigley competed in the Open Indoor Netball IPTs, and her Ladies B team won, silver in 6'S and Gold in 7's. She received player of the match for the 7's final. Well done Zoey!



Lucy Harker, Sage Moodie, Kingsley Jones, Grace Coetzer and Willow Gunther (Primary School) all represent KZN for Life Saving and Nippers.

Overall Results

KZN Jnr Surf (Kingsley, Sage & Grace) - 3rd

KZN Nippers surf (Lucy and Willow) - 2nd

Lucy and Grace had the honour and privilege to captain the Nippers and Junior Surf teams respectively. Well done girls!



Chrissy George and Nomthandazo Madela attended the Rhythmic Gymnastics African Championships as part of the Junior South African group. Their team were awarded 3 silver African Championship medals, placing 2nd overall, 2nd for ribbon and 2nd for their ball routine.



Jenna-Lee Atkinson recently represented the SA National Protea Karate Team, at the K1 International Youth League Karate Championship, where she won bronze for Individual Kumite and placed 5th in Individual Kata. Jenna-Lee has also been selected to represent South Africa at the AUSC UFAK Region South Championships in Angola this May. We wish her all the best!



Senior Primary Netball vs Glenwood

U10A	Lost	0-3	U12A	Lost	7-12
U10B	Lost	0-4	U12B	Lost	9-12
U10C	Won	5-4	U12C	Lost	6-9
U10D	Won	8-2	U12D	Lost	0-1
U11A	Lost	4-9	U12E	Won	6-3
U11B	Lost	2-9	U13A	Lost	4-29
U11C	Lost	2-12	U13B	Lost	6-25
			U13C	Lost	4-5

Senior Primary Netball vs Virginia

U10A	Won	8-0	U12A	Lost	8-11
U10B	Won	3-2	U12B	Lost	6-7
U10C	Lost	3-4	U12C	Won	4-1
U10D	Won	8-0	U12D	Won	4-1
U11A	Lost	4-5	U12E vs Virginia U12D	Drew	1-1
U11B	Drew	8-8	U13A	Lost	9-17
U11C vs Virginia U11C	Lost	1-6	U13B	Lost	1-8
U11C vs Virginia U11D	Won	5-2	U13C	Lost	7-8

Fatima Netball Festival

U10A	vs Ashton	Drew	0-0	U10B	vs Glenwood	Lost	0-5
	vs Maris Stella	Drew	0-0		vs Winston Park	Lost	1-3
	vs Fatima B	Drew	0-0		vs Fatima A	Drew	0-0
	vs Westville	Won	2-1		vs Ashton	Lost	1-4
	vs Umhlali	Lost	0-8		vs Maris Stella	Lost	0-5
	vs Glenwood	Lost	2-3		vs Umhlali	Lost	0-6
	vs Winston Park	Won	1-0		vs Westville	Lost	1-2
U11A	vs Glenwood	Lost	0-4	U11B	vs Umhlali	Lost	1-4
	vs Ashton	Lost	3-4		vs Westville	Lost	0-6
	vs Maris Stella	Lost	2-4		vs Ashton	Lost	0-9
	vs Fatima B	Won	2-0		vs Fatima A	Lost	0-2
	vs Winston Park	Lost	0-3		vs Maris Stella	Lost	0-3
	vs Westville	Lost	1-3		vs Glenwood	Lost	1-4
	vs Umhlali	Lost	0-2		vs Winston Park	Lost	1-3
U12A	vs Umhlali	Won	11-1	U12B	vs Glenwood	Lost	3-14
	vs Winston Park	Won	6-3		vs Umhlali	Lost	3-4
	vs Fatima B	Won	8-1		vs Fatima A	Lost	1-8
	vs Westville	Won	5-2		vs Winston Park	Lost	2-8
	vs Glenwood	Lost	4-6		vs Westville	Lost	6-7
U13A	vs Umhlali	Lost	1-12	U13B	vs Glenwood	Lost	1-17
	vs Winston Park	Won	7-4		vs Umhlali	Lost	0-21
	vs Fatima B	Won	6-3		vs Fatima A	Lost	3-6
	vs Westville	Lost	3-7		vs Winston Park	Lost	1-10
	vs Glenwood	Lost	3-17		vs Westville	Lost	0-8

High School Hockey vs Epworth

U14A	Won	5 - 0
U14B	Won	1 - 0
U16A	Won	4 - 0
U16B	Won	2 - 0
U16C	Lost	1 - 3
2nd	Drew	1 - 1
1st	Won	4 - 1

High School Hockey vs Danville

U14A	Won	4 - 0
U14B	Won	6 - 0
U16A	Won	4 - 0
U16B	Won	1 - 0
2nd	Won	1 - 0
U18	Won	3 - 1

High School Netball vs Ashton

U14A	Won	17 - 8
U14B	Lost	8 - 12
U14C	Lost	7 - 8
U15A	Won	19 - 4
U15B	Won	18 - 4
U16A	Lost	14 - 20
2nd	Won	8 - 13
1st	Won	37 - 16

High School Hockey vs Witterberg

U14A	Won	3 - 0
U16A	Won	6 - 0
U18	Won	2 - 0

High School Hockey vs DGHS

U14B	Won	3 - 0
U16B	Won	3 - 0

NEWS

CLIFTON COLLEGE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Clifton College hosted a most uplifting evening of music and song on Tuesday, the 5th of May, featuring choir and ensembles from neighbouring high schools. The Fatima Chamber Choir performed with nuance and feeling, followed by an upbeat collaboration with the high school band performing an ABBA favourite! It was an evening filled with joy, where students shared their love of music with one another

Photo Credit: Clifton College



THE LITTLE MERMAID

McKenzie Judge (left), Ameli Thiebaut (centre), and Lucy Jestin (right) showcased their singing, acting and dancing talents over the holidays on the Milkwood Theatre stage in *The Little Mermaid*, produced by the Young Performers Project. Productions such as these not only celebrate artistic talent but also provide valuable opportunities for our girls to collaborate across grades through their shared love of the performing arts.

The following girls danced in the Global Dance Open in Roodeport this March:

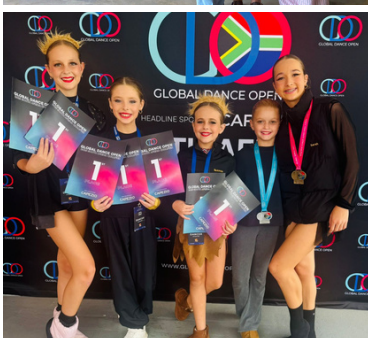
Harley Engelbrecht (grade 4)

Whitley Crowder (grade 5)

Mackenzie Judge (grade 6)

Anna Lourens (grade 6)

They achieved two 1st place certificates for their group dances and Whitley achieved a 1st place certificate for small dance.



2026 FATIMA MATRIC DANCE

