



Fatima Focus

The official newsletter of **Our Lady of Fatima** Dominican Convent School | Est 1954

Principal's Message

Amidst the many articles shared over Mandela Day this past weekend, I came across a quote attributed to Nelson Mandela that reminded me of the extraordinary power of choice:

“As I walked out of the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew that if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

Mandela certainly had every reason to hold on to bitterness, yet he made the powerful and life-changing choice to leave it behind. Every day, we are faced with choices, some significant and life-changing, and others smaller, more impulsive and spontaneous. They range from something as simple as which route to take to school that morning to a decision as consequential as which university course your child will pursue. Mandela’s example reminds us to be intentional about the choices we make: to consider the life we are living, what is shaping our present, and what we are allowing to shape our future.

As a faith-based school, we encourage our girls to lean into their faith when faced with life’s choices. James 4:8 reminds us, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” Mother Rose’s words, which have been the anchor for our theme this year, offer similar encouragement: “So now, courage forward. Take the daily ups and downs and be very cheerful. God is waiting for us.”

As we move into the third term, with all that it may hold, may we choose each day to be grateful for another sunrise and to embrace fully all the opportunities before us. May we reflect honestly on our daily decisions and thoughts, reset when necessary, and continue moving through the year with courage, knowing that God is always for us.

C Lourens

Faith and Flourish

After much rest, our school begins to buzz again with laughter, girls chatting, and staff gathering around a cup of coffee in the morning.

It has made me truly reflect on the idea of His way or my way. Often, if we had it our way, we would choose the comfortable route, the one that is easy, with fewer challenges and where we have absolute control. But God works differently. If we choose His way, there may be disappointment, fear, and pain, but ultimately, it leads us towards a fuller life and deeper joy.

The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We may never fully understand God's ways, but we are invited to trust Him and let go, allowing His perfect timing and plan to unfold.

He is an on-time God, who loves the impossible, works miracles, and is always present in our lives, doing more than we could ever think or imagine. As Ephesians 3:20 reminds us, He is able to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."

This term, walk forward knowing His ways are not our ways, but He is an on-time God who loves the impossible.

Miss T. Nanak

Staff news

Sr Dominique Bernon is in the United Kingdom. She represented the Sisters from South Africa as Sister Ngan, one of the Vietnamese Sisters, made her Final Profession as a Dominican Sister on the 18 July. Sister Ngan taught at Fatima in 2023. Let us keep her in our prayers.

Parent's Corner



Interhouse Cross Country



2026 TROPHY WINNERS: INTER HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

Grade 1	1st	2 nd	3 rd
Grade 1	Emily Wingfield	Mackenzie Kriel	McKenzie Disfontein
Grade 2	Agnes O'Connor	Morgan Massey	Ava Jessiman
Grade 3	Ella Dunlop	Indigo Gunther	Sarvani Kistnasami
Grade 4	Payton Snelling	Florence Coetzee	Ruby Kitto
Grade 5	Scarlett Cannon	Mia Ludlow	Joanna Herselman
Grade 6	Harris Gunther	Mufaro Kachisi	Leila Salmon
Grade 7	Willow Gunther	Emma Morgan	Jessica Reilly
Grade 8	Courtney Becker	Aimee Kinsley	Georgia Wallis
Grade 9	Sophia de Costa	Isabella Kitching	Saskia Kistnasami
Grade 10	Alexis Hewitt	Meg Graham	Amber Leibbrandt
Grade 11	Tess Birkett	Amy Rose George	Kenya Lewis
Grade 12	Ava Moore	Nicola Hoal	

2026 TROPHY WINNERS: INTER HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

TROPHY	RECIPIENT
TEN BRINKS HAYNES TROPHY For the best time in the Junior School	Willow Gunther
TAYNA VLOK TROPHY For the most improved runner	Reabilwe Moloto Kimberlee Anderssen
KELLY-MAREE ATKINSON TROPHY For Perseverance	Reilly Abbott
KATE AND JOAN BAXTER TROPHY For Commitment	Nicola Hoal
DE MARIGNY TROPHY For the best time in the Senior School	Alexis Hewitt
THACKWRAY TROPHY For the best overall time	Alexis Hewitt
CALITZ INTER-HOUSE TROPHY	St Patrick's

Senior Primary

Well done to all our hockey girls who proudly represented KwaZulu-Natal over the holidays at the various IPT!

Results:

- KZN U13A– 3rd Overall
- KZN U13C– 3rd Overall
- KZN U12A– 1st Overall
- KZN U12B – 2nd Overall

We are incredibly proud of every player for their hard work, commitment, and the way they represented KwaZulu-Natal. Congratulations on an outstanding tournament!



Senior Primary

30KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Tiana Brink	Joanna Herselman	Georgia Dunlop	Willow Gunther
Kyla Massey	Hayla Staebe	Leila Salmon	Merielle Staebe
Florence Coetzee	Scarlett Cannon	Mia Govender	
		Ivy Power	
		Madison Wallis	
		Mufaro Kachisi	

60KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
		Brooke Ellis	

U12A DGC NETBALL TOURNAMENT

vs Ashton	Won	
vs Maris Stella	Won	
vs DGC	Won	
vs Chelsea	Lost	
vs Glenwood	Lost	
vs Northlands	Lost	

U13A ST JOHNS FESTIVAL: NETBALL

vs Laddsworth	Won	6-5
vs Virginia	Won	6-5
vs TWC	Lost	7-14
vs Umhlali	Drew	7-7
vs St Johns	Won	1-11
vs Epworth	Won	5-3
vs DGC	Lost	5-9

U13A ST JOHNS FESTIVAL: HOCKEY

vs TWC	Drew	0-0
vs Laddsworth	Drew	0-0
vs St Johns	Won	2-0
vs Epworth	Drew	0-0



Senior Primary

Congratulations to the following girls on their selection into the North Durban Soccer team!

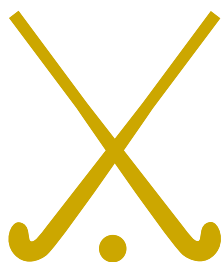
Grade 4	Grade 5
Harley Engelbrecht	Brooklyn Ramsay
Alexis Amos	



Charlotte Goble and her pony King Courtney were selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal in the Child/Pony Rider Preliminary Dressage Team at the South African Youth Championships, held at Shongweni Club. Teams consisted of 4 riders and this in itself is an amazing achievement! - Their team finished 2nd overall!

Individually, Charlotte competed in a very competitive national field of 21 riders, achieving 4th, 5th and 7th places across her 3 events.

The scores among the top 10 were incredibly close.



Congratulations to our hockey girls on a fantastic weekend at the Nika Coertzen Hockey Tournament in Bloemfontein! Our U13A team had a strong performance, while not conceding a single goal throughout the tournament, finishing 7th out of 32 teams.

Our U12 team attended the tournament for the very first time, gaining invaluable experience and finished 13th out of 16 teams.



High School

Well done to all our hockey girls who proudly represented KwaZulu-Natal over the holidays! Our players competed at the highest level against the best in the country and represented both their province and our school with pride.

Results:

- KZN U14A – 2nd Overall
- KZN U14B – 3rd Overall
- KZN U14C – 1st Overall
- KZN U16A – 1st Overall
- KZN U16B – 10th Overall
- KZN U16C – 9th Overall
- KZN U18A – 4th Overall
- KZN U18B – 5th Overall



Special congratulations must go to **Charly-Rose Boyall** who played for the KZN U16A team and won:

- Forward of the tournament
- Top goal scorer of the tournament
- Player of the tournament

To top it all off, she was also selected in the **SA U16A Team** which will play in a international tournament later in August.



High School

Congratulations to our Fatima netball girls who proudly represented KZN netball over the holidays, competing against the other provinces. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!

- KZN U14 Dolphins - 10th (Kacey-Lee Roberts, Grace Stephen, Payson Hunter, Mhlai Tshobisa)
- KZN U14 Sharks - 21st Overall (Emily Meyer)
- KZN U15 Sharks - 11th Overall (Makhamahle Langa)
- KZN U16 Sharks - 7th Overall (Mika Gouws)
- KZN U16 Dolphins - 21st (Nomaswazi Vilakazi)
- KZN U16 Whales - 23rd (Tatum Redfern, Avela Ngubane)
- KZN U18 Dolphins - 10th Overall (Emma Schoombee, Khanya Mkhize, Kenia Grote)



Congratulations to Khanya Mkhize on being selected as one of the Top 35 players during the U18 Netball Inter-Provincial Tournament where she represented KZN.

We are delighted to announce that Saskya Kistnasami has been selected to represent Team South Africa at the upcoming African Aquatics Zone 4 Swimming Championships in Botswana!



High School



What an incredible experience for our 1st Netball Team at the World Schools Netball Cup in Loughborough, UK! The team finished 5th in the Senior Section and 3rd in the U19 Section, competing against top international opposition. The girls represented our school with pride, passion and sportsmanship, making memories both on and off the court. Congratulations on a fantastic and successful tour!



Sports Results

HS Inter House Hockey

St Patricks vs St Stephens Junior	1-1
St Patricks vs St Stephens Senior	4-0
St Patricks vs St Anytonys Junior	0-4
St Patricks vs St Anytonys Senior	2-0
St Anytonys vs St Stephens Junior	2-1
St Anytonys vs St Stephens Senior	0-4

St Patrick's won overall

SP Inter House Netball

U10

St Anthonys vs St Patricks	1-1
St Patricks vs St Stephens	1-6
St Anthonys vs St Stephens	0-3

U11

St Anthonys vs St Patricks	6-0
St Patricks vs St Stephens	2-7
St Anthonys vs St Stephens	3-2

U12

St Patricks vs St Stephens	6-5
St Anthonys vs St Patricks	4-3
St Anthonys vs St Stephens	3-2

U13

St Anthonys vs St Patricks	2-6
St Patricks vs St Stephens	11-6
St Anthonys vs St Stephens	6-6

FINAL PLACINGS

1 ST Place	St Anthonys
2 nd Place	St Patricks & St Stephens

HS Inter House Netball

St Anytonys U14 vs St Stephens U14	5-2
St Patricks U14 vs St Stephens U14	6-5
St Patricks U14 vs St Anytonys U14	4-12

St Anytonys won U14

HS Inter House Netball

St Anytonys U15 vs St Stephens U15	12-6
St Patricks U15 vs St Stephens U15	4-5
St Patricks U15 vs St Anytonys U15	2-5

St Anytonys won U15

HS Inter House Netball

St Anytonys U18 vs St Stephens U18	18-3
St Patricks U18 vs St Stephens U18	7-3
St Patricks U18 vs St Anytonys U18	4-16

St Anytonys won U18

HS Inter House Cross Country

1 ST Place	St Patricks
2 nd Place	St Stephens
3 rd Place	St Anthonys

SP Inter House Cross Country

1 ST Place	St Anthonys
2 nd Place	St Stephens
3 rd Place	St Patricks

Humanities

In the holidays, some of our girls participated in the **Queensburgh Festival of Arts** and they did us proud.

Congratulations to Anele Mtshali (GR11) for receiving a gold in the u18 classical vocals section and to Elaine (GR9) and her sister, Amy-Louise Blignaut, for winning the **Senior Duet Trophy** on pianoforte.

Further congratulations is awarded to Yiling (Sophia) Lyu (GR8) for walking away with trophies for both the best u14 **piano recital**, as well as the best u14 **piano concerto**. Sophia had an exciting holiday also receiving her GR6 practical piano exam results and achieving an outstanding 96%. These results pay tribute to their hard work and dedication in their discipline, for pushing the boundaries and stepping out to become more proficient.



Keah Nketu (GR9) has had a whirlwind of a time this holiday with the release of her **song**, "Only Fourteen". Co-written with her mum, it was officially launched at the end of last term amongst close friends and family and is currently found on all the social media platforms - Youtube, TikTok, Instagram, Apple music, Spotify. Find, click and listen to this up-and-coming talent!

The following learners took part in the show **The Prince of Egypt** at the Playhouse in the July holidays: Gia Neal, Mackenzie Judge, Alexandra Glock, Lucy Jestin and Anele Mtshali.



We congratulate all our girls who took part in **The Enchanted World of OZ** - presented by Dandelion Studio of Dance.

" Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela

Humanities Day



Humanities encompass the study of human culture, thought, and experience, focusing on disciplines such as philosophy, literature, history, and the arts.

News



CALCULATOR DRIVE

Please Donate

Lizalise is an outreach NPO that tutors Maths to Grade 8 and 9 students at Langa High School in Cape Town.

Within the South African schooling system, learners need to make use of **scientific calculators**. Unfortunately, these calculators come at a cost and owning one quickly becomes a luxury.

This leaves many students in Langa sharing or using online calculators.



We believe that each child in our country should have the same opportunity to excel in their schooling. We also know that many people leave high school **without a future need for their calculators**.

If you have a scientific calculator that is no longer being used, please consider giving it a new home with a student in Langa by **donating it to Lizalise**.

**CONTACT AMY YOUNG AT 071 875 8999 TO
DONATE & ARRANGE A COLLECTION.**



@lizalisetutoring



lizaliseset@gmail.com

Lizalise is an outreach initiative started by past pupil Amy Young, Head of High School in 2024. The goal is to provide calculators to Grade 8 and 9 learners who may not have the resources to purchase their own. A calculator is more than just a school tool, it is an opportunity for a learner to participate fully in Mathematics and unlock their potential.

**"Small acts, when multiplied by many people,
can transform lives."**

Programme FOUNDERS' DAY

THURSDAY 30 | 07 | 2026 - RIVERSIDE SPORTS

U13 Hockey fixture

17h30 - 18h20 Vintage Legends (alumni) vs 1st Hockey Team
Boerewors Braai

FRIDAY 31 | 07 | 2026

Primary School Mass

Guest Speaker at High School Assembly

Cake cutting (whole school)

Alumni - Matric roses

Primary School Celebrations

SATURDAY 01 | 08 | 2026

07h30 - 08h15 Tea Senior Quad for Guests

08h30 Mass

Acknowledge Mrs June Druce for 30 years service

Market on Sisters Lawn

10h00 - 10h30 Tea Junior Quad

10h30 - 11h00 Vintage Legends (alumni) vs 2nd Netball Team

11h15 - 12h00 1st Netball Team fixture

Celebrating Our Legacy

Growing MINDS • Growing FAITH • Growing HEART • Growing FAMILY



Let us celebrate FOUNDERS' DAY

30 July 2026

Hockey - Riverside Sports

31 July 2026

**Assembly - Guest Speaker
Cake Cutting**

1 August 2026

Mass

**30 Years Service - Mrs June Druce
Netball - Fatima
Market**

You are cordially invited to join us
as we honour our founders and celebrate
the spirit of our school community.

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