



# Fatima Focus

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

## Principal's Message

Our Founders' Day celebrations unfolded across three wonderful days, each offering its own expression of the spirit of Fatima. We began on Thursday evening with the Vintage Legends, our alumnae, taking on the First Hockey Team. Past and present met on the same field (on Saturday for the netball), united by shared memories, enduring friendships and a love for a school that continues to hold a place in their lives long after their final day in uniform.

On Friday, our Primary School and whole-school celebrations brought every generation of current Fatima girls together. Looking across our school community in the quad, I was reminded that although our girls may be at very different stages of their journeys, they are all part of the same unfolding story.

The celebrations concluded on Saturday with our High School Mass and netball matches. The Mass brought us back to the heart of who we are: a community grounded in faith, gratitude and service. The courts then came alive with energy and healthy competition, reminding us that school spirit is found not only in ceremonies and traditions, but also in the encouragement from the sidelines, the determination of our players and the simple pleasure of being together.

Across the three days, we celebrated much more than a date on the calendar. We celebrated a legacy.

A school such as ours is not built in a single moment or by a single person. It is built gradually, through brave decisions, faithful service and countless ordinary acts. It is built by those who dreamed of what might be possible, by those who protected and strengthened that dream, and by every Sister, teacher, staff member, learner, parent, and alumna who has added something of themselves to our story. Legacy is not only about what has been handed down to us. It is also about what we choose to hand forward. Founders' Day invites us to ask not simply, "What did they build?" but also, "What are we building now?"

Our founders could not have known every challenge or opportunity that future generations would face. They did, however, understand the importance of courage, faith and purpose. They planted seeds whose shade they might never enjoy, trusting that others would continue the work. That responsibility now rests with us.

As we honour the past, we also look ahead with hope. The Fatima of tomorrow is already being shaped in today's classrooms, on today's sports fields, in today's friendships and through today's choices. Every act of kindness strengthens our community. Every courageous decision extends our legacy. Every girl who discovers her gifts and learns to use them in service of others becomes part of what is still to come. Perhaps that is the greatest gift of Founders' Day: it reminds us that we are both recipients and custodians. We inherit a story, but we are also called to write its next chapter.

**Courage, forward.**

**C Lourens**

# Faith and Flourish

To Be Loved Is To Be Known — Psalm 139  
I think Psalm 139 is one of the most beautiful descriptions of what it means to be loved.

Because perhaps, at its heart, it is really saying this:

To be loved is to be known. To be loved is to be seen.

The Psalm reminds us that God knows you. He knows when you sit down and rise up. He knows your thoughts, where you go, the things you say and the things you keep hidden.

He knows the parts everyone else sees, and the parts no one else sees. And somehow, knowing all of this, He still loves you.

But then the Psalm gets uncomfortable. David speaks about those against God, and his anger is obvious. Yet what I find beautiful is how he ends the Psalm. He doesn't ask God to search everyone else. He turns the searchlight onto himself:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart... See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

We are often very good at seeing what is wrong with everyone else — our friends, parents, teachers and the world. But how often do we stop and say, "God, what about me?"

The God who searches us is not trying to catch us out. He searches us because He loves us and wants us to see what He sees. So, are you willing to be fully known, fully seen, and invite God into the parts of yourself you cannot yet see?

In love and faith

Miss T.Nanak

# Staff news



Mrs Carryn Smith was awarded her Wood Badge on the 31 July. It is the highest award an Adult Scouter can achieve. She had to plan an event for all Scouts in KZN, assist with leadership training and upgrade her First Aid qualification. Well done Mrs Smith.

# Parent's Corner

Andrea Jamieson was the winner of the **Founders' Day PTA Supporters Gear raffle.**





# Foundation Phase



Aleesi Canning & Melamina Nzama earned their yellow belt in **Jiu-Jitsu**



Indigo Gunther won Victrix Ludorum at **Durban Surf Life Saving Club**



Indigo Gunther & Ella Dunlop ran in the **cross country district champs**, where Indigo placed 9<sup>th</sup> and Ella placed 3<sup>rd</sup>



Oria Treloar hiked the **Giants Cup Trail** in the Drakensburg and hiked 45km over 4 days.

Oria also earned her yellow belt in **Jiu-Jitsu**.



Harper Judge took place in her first **Golf Tournament**, she was the only girl who participated.



Our Grade 3s have kicked off the Hockey Term playing fixtures at the **Chelsea Grade 3 Hockey Festival**.



# Foundation Phase

## Interschools Cross Country at Curro Salt Rock



|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| 1st (U9) | Ella Dunlop         |
| 3rd (U9) | Indigo Gunther      |
| 5th (U9) | Ashleigh Muchauraya |



## KZNA Cross Country Champs



|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 10th (U8) | Emily Wingfield |
| 3rd (U9)  | Ella Dunlop     |
| 5th (U9)  | Indigo Gunther  |

## Grade 2 & 3 Hockey Festival



Much fun was had at the DGC hockey festival, a good start to the season!



# Senior Primary

## Academic Awards

We congratulate the following learners on their marked academic improvement from Term 1 to Term 2.

### Grade 6

Brooklyn Artz  
Mufaro Kachisi  
Isla Shaw

### Grade 7

Ndinovuyo Cele  
Indiana Chapman  
Willow Gunther  
Nkosazana Mabanga  
Meher Manick  
Kerina Naidoo  
Ariana Peter  
Jessica Reilly  
Amelia Watson

We congratulate the following learners on achieving an aggregate of 80% or above in Term 2.

### Grade 4

Charlotte Adams  
Ava Akal  
Alexis Amos  
Tiana Brink  
Bailey Chetty  
Sophia De Lange  
Nayomi Hansjee  
Milena Luizenho  
Sadie Mason  
Mahi Roopchund  
Payton Snelling  
Elyssa Young

### Grade 5

Ava Blom  
Lily Fouche  
Daniella Govender  
Stella Harper  
Mia Ludlow  
Allegra Sessions  
Grace van Niekerk

### Grade 6

Hayley Bonnin  
Grace De Robillard  
Georgia Dunlop  
Morgan Elliot  
Rosetta Evans  
Mia Govender  
Sophia Govender  
Joey Gregory  
Stella Lewis  
Simrin Munsamy  
Nateya Naidoo  
Nqobile Nhassengo  
Rheya Pillay  
Ivy Power  
Leila Salmon  
Elizabeth Snyders  
Rachel Vermaak  
Lily Walker

### Grade 7

Lara Britz  
Hanna Cassim  
Erin Child  
Ivy Diffenthal  
Kate Hadiaris  
Liya Jugath  
Annabel Kruger  
Nyakallo Lecheko  
Emma Morgan  
Ava Shotland  
Charley Springate  
Mereille Staebe  
Emily van Laun  
Karien van Schalkwyk  
Mila Warther





# Senior Primary

## U10A CHELSEA HOCKEY FESTIVAL

|               |      |     |
|---------------|------|-----|
| vs Umhlali    | Lost | 0-3 |
| vs DGC        | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Virginia   | Drew | 0-0 |
| vs Westville  | Won  | 3-0 |
| vs Ashton     | Lost | 0-2 |
| vs Northlands | Drew | 2-2 |

## U11A CHELSEA HOCKEY FESTIVAL

|               |      |     |
|---------------|------|-----|
| vs Chelsea    | Lost | 0-4 |
| vs Virginia   | Won  | 2-0 |
| vs Umhlali    | Lost | 1-4 |
| vs Northlands | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Ashton     | Lost | 0-2 |

## U13A ASHTON HOCKEY FESTIVAL

|             |      |     |
|-------------|------|-----|
| vs Penzance | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Ashton   | Drew | 1-1 |
| vs Glenwood | Won  | 3-0 |
| vs DGC      | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Virginia | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Umhlali  | Won  | 2-0 |

## U13A ST MARYS HOCKEY FESTIVAL

|                 |      |     |
|-----------------|------|-----|
| vs Umhlali      | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Virginia     | Drew | 0-0 |
| vs Chelsea      | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs St Marys B   | Won  | 1-0 |
| vs Winston Park | Drew | 1-1 |
| vs Ashton       | Lost | 3-0 |

U13A came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall out of 12 schools.

**Amaya Gomez-Cuadrado** won defender of the tournament and **Dhiya Sukhraj** won goalkeeper of the tournament.





# Senior Primary



| SP HOCKEY vs<br>GLENWOOD |      |     |
|--------------------------|------|-----|
| U10A                     | Won  | 6-0 |
| U10B                     | Lost | 0-1 |
| U10C                     | Lost | 3-0 |
| U11A                     | Drew | 0-0 |
| U11B                     | Drew | 0-0 |
| U13A                     | Won  | 2-0 |
| U13B                     | Won  | 2-1 |
| U13C                     | Won  | 1-0 |





# Senior Primary

## SP CROSS COUNTRY at CURRO SALT ROCK

### U10

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ruby Kitto        | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Abigail Wingfield | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ruby Mendonidis   | 8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Payton Snelling   | 9 <sup>th</sup> |

### U12

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Harris Gunther         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Mufaro Kachisi         | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Leila Salmon           | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Georgia Dunlop         | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mia Govender           | 8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mackenzie Barrie-Smith | 9 <sup>th</sup> |

### U13

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Willow Gunther | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Emma Morgan    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Jessica Reilly | 6 <sup>th</sup> |

Our cross-country runners have been waking up early to train throughout Term 2 and the start of Term 3. Their hard work is already paying off, and we are delighted with the girls' fantastic start to the cross-country season.

## KZN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS

### U10

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Abigail Wingfield | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
|-------------------|------------------|

### U12

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Harris Gunther | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mufaro Kachisi | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Georgia Dunlop | 31 <sup>st</sup> |
| Leila Salmon   | 35 <sup>th</sup> |

### U13

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Willow Gunther | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Emma Morgan    | 14 <sup>th</sup> |





# Senior Primary

## 30KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

| Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6       | Grade 7        |
|---------|---------|---------------|----------------|
|         |         | Stella Harper | Jessica Reilly |

## 60KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

| Grade 4      | Grade 5 | Grade 6        | Grade 7        |
|--------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Zahiya Tayob |         | Harris Gunther | Emma Morgan    |
|              |         | Hayley Bonnin  | Willow Gunther |

## 150KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

| Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6                | Grade 7 |
|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|
|         |         | Mackenzie Barrie-Smith |         |



Brooklyn Artz ran the **Total Sports Womens** race on Sunday 02 August. She came 1<sup>st</sup> in her age group and won R1000 to spend at Total Sports. Well done, Brooklyn.



Alexis Amos and Kiera Dell competed in a level 4 **gymnastics** competition. Kiera finished first overall and Alexis finished third overall. It was a great start to the season for both girls. Well done Kiera and Alexis.



Milena Luizinho competed in a **rhythmic gymnastics'** competition on Saturday 01 August. She got a Silver medal for her ribbon and clubs routine. Well done, Milena.



Liv Williamson made the **KZN U13B touch rugby** team. Well done, Liv.



# Senior Primary

| DURBAN SURF NIPPERS PRIZEGIVING |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| U10                             |                             |
| RUBY KITTO                      | Girls Beach Sprints         |
|                                 | Girls Body Board            |
|                                 | Victrix Ludorum             |
| RUBY MENDONIDIS                 | Most Improved Nipper        |
| KYLA MASSEY                     | Most Consistent Performance |
| GABRIELA CHEDZEY                | Most Dependable Nipper      |
| U11                             |                             |
| HARRIS GUNTHER                  | Girls Surf Swim             |
|                                 | Girls Flags                 |
|                                 | Girls Beach Sprints         |
|                                 | Girls Long Run              |
|                                 | Girls Body Board            |
|                                 | Girls Board                 |
|                                 | Best Female Performance     |
|                                 | Victrix Ludorum             |
| U13                             |                             |
| CHARLEY SPRINGATE               | Most Improved Paddler       |
| WILLOW GUNTHER                  | Girls Flags                 |
|                                 | Girls Beach Sprints         |
|                                 | Girls Long Run              |



Maddison Girdhari proudly represented KwaZulu-Natal at the 2026 SA Kyokushin Championships, competing in karate, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing.

Maddison won three bronze medals across the Kata, Kumite, and Champions of Champions divisions. She showed incredible determination and retained her title as the South African U12 Overall Division Champion.

Maddison will travel to Johannesburg in October to represent KZN. Congratulations, Maddison.





# High School

We are incredibly proud of our hockey 1st Team, who were crowned the **SPAR KZN Hockey Champions** on Saturday.

Congratulations to our players and coaches on this fantastic and well deserved achievement.



| Spar Grand Final Tournament |     |      |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|
| vs St Anne's                | Won | 3-1  |
| vs DGC                      | Won | 1-0  |
| vs Wartburg                 | Won | 11-0 |
| vs Grantliegh               | Won | 7-0  |
| vs St Mary's                | Won | 1-0  |
| Final vs St John's          | Won | 1-0  |

1st team placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall out of 10 schools.

This is the first time in our school's history winning this prestigious tournament.





# High School

| Water Polo League    |      |     |
|----------------------|------|-----|
| U14A vs DGC          | Lost | 3-4 |
| U14A vs Maris Stella | Won  | 7-0 |
| U14A vs TMC          | Won  | 9-0 |
| U16A vs DGC          | Won  | 7-2 |

| Soccer Results vs Port Shepstone |      |     |
|----------------------------------|------|-----|
| U14A                             | Won  | 3-1 |
| U15A                             | Won  | 7-0 |
| U16A                             | Drew | 2-2 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Team             | Won  | 2-0 |



Sophie Haynes, Emma Davis and Aimee Dorrofield enjoyed participating in the 2026 **Rhino Trail Run**. The race is over 2 days and they ran 11 kms on Day 1 and 8 Kms on day 2. It was all in aid of raising funds for Rhino Anti-Poaching and rescue.





# Humanities

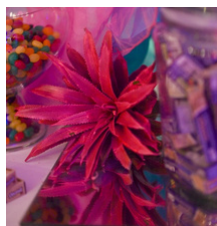


On Friday, 24 July 2026 some of our high school choristers had a **choral workshop** with Mrs Shelley McLean-Downham. We had a very constructive time - learning new techniques when singing.

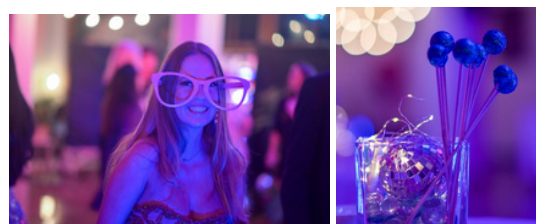
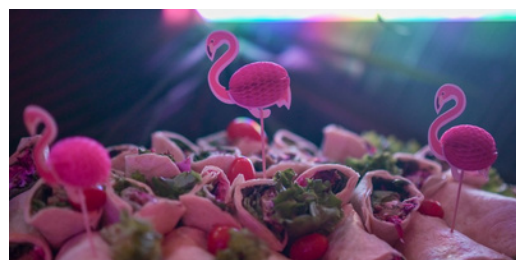




# News



Thank you to our **Grade 11 Parent Dance Committee** for creating the most amazing space for our Grade 11 girls.

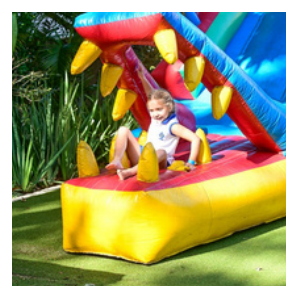




# Founders' Day



Thank you to **Anneke Kitching (nee Akal)** for joining us as you celebrated your **30 year reunion**.



We celebrated our legacy with various events for our **Founders' Day**. Thank you everyone who joined us for these very special occasions.