



Fatima Focus

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

Principal's Message

This past week found our high school girls in several high-stakes moments as they represented our school in semi-finals and finals. While the results mattered, what stood out most to me was the way our girls responded in each instance.

Down in a freezing Cape Town, our U16 girls competed in the semi-final of the Top 12 Hockey Tournament. After extra time and a penalty shootout, the scores remained level and they found themselves in sudden death. The shootout did not go our way, and St John's advanced to the final, but our girls did two things that made my heart swell. As the shootout progressed, those watching huddled together in a small group and bowed their heads in prayer. Then, as the loss became a reality, they ran towards one another and gathered in a huddle once again. It was a hard moment and a tough loss, yet they leaned in when it mattered most, into one another and into their faith. While I would never wish a loss upon our girls, what was gained in that moment meant that, in my mind, they were still victorious.

On the very same day, in a much warmer Durban, our First Team Water Polo girls were also competing in a semi-final. Once again, the match went to a penalty shootout and, once again, the result did not go our way. We went down 4-3 to DGC. It was a difficult loss for a young team that has grown so much over the past year. Yet again, our girls leaned into their faith and into one another. I will always carry the image of them praying together when I think of this tournament. The loss mattered deeply in the moment, but the foundation of faith and community that has been built matters far more.

Lastly, during that very same week, yes it is always busy in our little school, our Grade 8 Debating Team competed in the final of the Durban league. They faced Maris Stella in a lively debate on whether religious artefacts should be preserved. As representatives of a Catholic school, our girls were required to oppose the motion. They had only 45 minutes to prepare, with no devices permitted.

They developed a beautiful argument: that faith is etched into our hearts and is not exclusively tied to artefacts or places, and they WON. Once again, what stood out to their coach and teacher, Mrs Colton, was what happened next. As celebrations and chaos erupted around them, Dom O'Brien gathered the girls into a circle and quietly led them in a prayer of thanksgiving.

There is so much competing for the attention of our girls in the modern world. There is so much for them to consider, navigate and debate, far more, perhaps, than when we were young. To watch our girls, choose faith, choose prayer and lean in, to God and to one another, is to see that, what we hope to place within them is already at work.

May they continue to always lean in, not only within our school walls, but throughout all the years that carry them beyond them.

C Lourens



Faith and Flourish

Listening for God in the Moment

Our girls are currently spread across different spaces — some on excursions, while our Matrics have begun their trials. Yet, wherever they are, there is an invitation to listen for God.

I have been thinking about the story of Samuel, who was lying in the temple when he heard his name being called. At first, he did not recognise that it was God speaking to him. Eli helped him understand that when he heard the voice again, he should simply say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

I wonder how often God is speaking to us, but we are so busy, distracted or worried that we do not stop to listen.

For some of our girls, these excursions are opportunities to step into new spaces, experience new things and perhaps hear God speaking through the people they meet and the moments they share. For others, sitting in an exam room is an opportunity to trust that God is beside them, giving them strength and reminding them that they are never alone.

Wherever we find ourselves, God is present and still speaking.

This week's challenge: Take a few quiet moments each day and simply pray, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Then be attentive to what God may be placing on your heart.

With Love and Faith,

Miss T. Nanak

Staff news

We welcome **Cassandra Abboy** to our staff team as she takes up the role of Head of Advancement & Alumni Relations.

Cassandra will work closely with our Jubilee Trust and our Alumni.

Please feel free to reach out to Cassandra at oldgirls@fatima.co.za.



Parent's Corner

iStore
EDUCATION

 Premium
Education Partner

Take your child's
education even further.

From
R13 999



Get R500 off with your parent savings discount. Save even more when you trade in.

**SAVE
THOUSANDS**
when you trade in your
Mac or PC.

**Free iCare** for Mac and **50%
off iCarePlus** for iPad.

**10% off**
accessories.

**Free tech and setup**
support at any iStore
nationwide.

**Free Parent
iPad safety
session.**

**With every purchase, your
school earns rewards to
fund valuable initiatives.**

Trade in T&Cs apply.

Foundation Phase



Grade 2
Hockey
Festival



Grade 3 Hockey Festival



Ella Dunlop, Indigo Gunther and Emily Wingfield participated in the KZN Cross Country trials on the 1st of August. Ella placed 3rd in the U9 and Indigo Gunther placed 5th. Both Ella and Indigo have made the KZN A Cross Country team. Emily Wingfield earned a place in the KZN B Cross Country team.

Well done girls.



Sarvani Kistnasami (grade 3) & Ashleigh Muchauraya (grade 1) took part in the Kloof Short Course Championship gala on the 8th August. Sarvani placed 4th in both 50m freestyle & 50m breaststroke; Ashleigh placed 1st in the 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke, Ashleigh also placed 6th in the U12 50m butterfly. Well done girls.



Sophie Fabian took part in the Westville Griffon Championship Gala, she placed 1st in the U8 25m freestyle, 25m backstroke and 25m breaststroke. Well done Sophie.

Senior Primary

SP HOCKEY vs VIRGINIA			SP HOCKEY vs ASHTON		
U10A	Drew	3-3	U10A	Lost	2-3
U10B	Drew	2-2	U10B	Lost	1-7
U10C	Won Won	2-0	U10C	Lost	0-4
vs VPS U10C vs VPS U10E		8-0	U10D vs Ashton U10D vs Ashton U10E	Lost Lost	0-4 0-1
U10D vs VPS U10D vs VPS U10F	Lost Won	0-1 1-0	U11A	Lost	0-4
U11A	Drew	0-0	U11B	Lost	0-3
U11B	Drew	2-2	U13B	Lost	0-1
U11C vs VPS U11C vs VPS U11D	Lost Won	0-4 1-0	U13C	Lost	0-2
U13A		1-2	U10A FATIMA HOCKEY FESTIVAL		
U13B	Won	2-0	U10A		
U13C	Drew	0-0	vs Maris Stella	Lost	0-1
U11A DGC HOCKEY FESTIVAL			vs Nothlands	Won	1-0
vs Virginia	Drew	0-0	vs Virginia	Drew	0-0
vs Winston Park	Lost	1-2	vs Ashton	Drew	1-1
vs DGC B	Won	2-0	vs Umhlali	Won	3-0
vs Umhlali	Drew	0-0	vs Chelsea	Lost	0-1
Playoff for 5 th /6 th vs St Marys	Lost	0-2	U10B		
Placing us 6 th overall out of 10 schools.			vs Umhlali	Lost	0-3
SP HOCKEY vs DGC			vs DGC	Drew	0-0
U10A	Drew	1-1	vs Northlands	Drew	0-0
U10B	Won	3-1	vs Virginia	Lost	0-3
U10C	Lost	0-5	vs Chelsea	Lost	0-3
U11A	Lost	0-1			
U11B	Lost	0-3			
U13A	Drew	1-1			
U13B	Drew	0-0			



Senior Primary

SP CROSS COUNTRY AT HOLA TRAILS HOSTED BY ASHTON

U10

Payton Snelling	5 th
Ruby Kitto	7 th
Florence Coetzee	10 th

U12

Harris Gunther	3 rd
Mufaro Kachisi	4 th
Brooklyn Artz	5 th
Mackenzie Barrie-Smith	6 th
Georgia Dunlop	7 th
Frankie Coetzee	9 th

U13

Willow Gunther	2 nd
Emma Morgan	3 rd
Jessica Reilly	9 th

SP CROSS COUNTRY AT UMHLALI

U10

Ruby Kitto	2 nd
Payton Snelling	4 th

U12

Harris Gunther	3 rd
Mackenzie Barrie-Smith	4 th
Brooklyn Artz	6 th
Ivy Power	7 th
Georgia Dunlop	9 th
Frankie Coetzee	10 th

U13

Willow Gunther	2 nd
Emma Morgan	3 rd
Jessica Reilly	8 th



Senior Primary



Brooklyn Artz, Mackenzie Barrie-Smith and Jessica Reilly took part in the Savages 5km on Sunday 16 Aug. Jessica placed 4th, Brooklyn placed 3rd and Mackenzie placed 2nd. Well done girls.



Congratulations to Harris and Willow Gunther on their selection into the KZN Cross Country B team

30KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
	Ava Blom	Chloe Swanepoel	Amelia Watson
	Stella Harper		

60KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Ruby Kitto		Leila Salmon	Jessica Reilly
Abigail Wingfield		Irrim Tayob	
Payton Snelling		Mia Govender	

200KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

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

Senior Primary

A few of our girls took part in the **MOVE Dance Competition** from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 August.

Their results are as follows:

Ella Macqueen

- Acro Dance: 1st in Gold
- Acro Solo: Silver
- Acto Quartet: 1st in Silver

Harly Engelbrecht

- Acro Dance Trio: 1st in Silver
- Acro Dance Production: 1st in Gold
- Acro Dance Group: 1st in Gold
- Acro Solo: 1st in Bronze

Sophia De Lange

- Lip Sync Group: 1st in Silver
- Acro Solo: 1st in Silver
- Lip Sync Duet: 1st in Silver
- Acro Production: 2nd in Silver
- Acro Dance Group: 1st in Bronze
- Character Competition Solo: 1st in Silver

Jessica Winstanley

- Hip Hop Solo: 2nd in Bronze
- Acro Solo: 3rd in Bronze
- Lip Sync Group: 1st in Silver

Ivy Diffenthal

- Hip Hop Solo: 2nd in Silver
- Lip Sync Group: 1st in Silver
- Musical Character Duet: 2nd in Silver

Charlotte Goble and her Pony King competed in the KZN Dressage Champs on the 08th August. She had a fantastic test, winning her class and is the KZN pony rider preliminary champion for 2026. Well done, Charlotte.



Anna Fabian represented North Durban U11A at the recent Umlazi Netball trials and has been selected for the U11A Umlazi Netball team that will take part in the KZN trials on Saturday 22nd August. Well done, Anna.



High School

Well done to our 1st Team Water Polo girls who competed at the Danville 1st Team Tournament!

The girls played extremely well throughout the weekend and showed great determination and Fatima spirit. Unfortunately, after drawing with DGC, the girls went down in a penalty shootout.

They finished 3rd overall in a very competitive tournament.

Well done, girls! We are incredibly proud of your efforts!

1 st Team Danville Tournament		
vs TMC	Lost	2-6
vs AMH	Won	13-0
vs Ashton	Won	9-2
vs St Anne's 2 nd	Won	18-4
vs Danville (Quarter)	Won	8-3
vs DGC (Semi)	Drew	5-5 (Lost in penalties 3-6)
vs St Mary's (3 rd / 4 th)	Won	11-1



High School

TOP 12 HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS

We could not be prouder of our U14A, U16A and 1st Team girls who competed in the prestigious Top 12 Hockey Tournaments.

To have all three teams represented at this level is a phenomenal achievement in itself. To then take on some of the top schools in the country, playing competitive, hard-fought hockey where fine margins separated the teams, was an incredible experience and a privilege to be part of.

Final placings:

U14A – 7th

U16A – 3rd

1st Team – 9th

A huge congratulations to every player for their commitment, skill, determination and fighting spirit throughout the tournament.

A special thank you to our matrices, whose commitment to hockey over the years has helped shape and grow our programme. We are incredibly proud of the legacy you leave behind.

And of course, well done to all our coaches and teams on an outstanding season! We are so proud of how far our hockey programme has come and are excited for what lies ahead. A special well done to Isabella Slater and Emily Hughes who played their 100th game for the 1st Team while on tour!



High School

Well done to our U14A Water Polo girls who played in the St Mary's U15 Water Polo Festival this weekend and only lost one game.

U15 St Mary's Water Polo Festival		
U14A vs St Mary's U14A	Drew	2-2
U14A vs Ashton U15	Lost	3-5
U14A vs St John's U15	Won	11-2
U14A vs Wykeham U15	Won	10-2
U14A vs DGC U14A	Won	6-5
U14A vs TMC U15	Won	5-4
U14A vs Maris Stella U15	Won	7-3
U14A vs WGHS U15	Won	10-0
U14A vs St Mary's U15	Won	8-2



Well done to our Soccer girls who played Danville on Thursday.

HS Soccer vs Danville		
U14A	Won	9-0
U14B	Won	3-0
U15A	Won	8-0
U16A	Won	4-0
1 st	Drew	1-1
2 nd	Drew	0-0



Congratulations to Amber Leibbrandt and Olivia Morris on their performances in the **HYROX** Doubles competition!

Amber and her doubles partner crossed the finish line in an impressive 52:36, while Olivia and her doubles partner completed the event in 56:46.

What an incredible achievement! We are so proud of you both.

Humanities

We are incredibly proud of our **Grade 8 Debating Team** — Olivia Lien, Gehna Behary, Taia Hendra and Sanam Munsamy — who were crowned **winners of the Durban Coastal Debating League Final**, held at Clifton High School on 13 August 2026.

Throughout the season, the girls have demonstrated tremendous dedication, confidence and a genuine passion for debating. This is a truly outstanding achievement, and we could not be prouder of them!

We would also like to congratulate Dominique O'Brien, Ivy Githinji and Gehna Behary, who received certificates for placing among the overall Top 10 Speakers in the DCDL League — another exceptional accomplishment and a wonderful reflection of their hard work and talent.

Congratulations, girls! We are immensely proud of you all!



PTA Annual Golf Day

We would like to express our gratitude to all the golfers and sponsors who supported our **Annual Golf Day**. Your commitment and generosity played a vital role in the success of the event, and we look forward to your continued partnership in the years ahead.



Parent Committee Women's Spring Tea

Thank you to our Parent Committee for the **Women's Spring Tea**. A spring gathering of learners and the significant women in their lives at a beautiful afternoon of tea, treats, conversation, and springtime fellowship.

All funds raised at this event will be donated to **Cuppa for CANSA**.



A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong.