



Fatima Focus

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

Principal's Message

Last Thursday evening, we were enjoying our annual Grade 6 Family Celebration. Our girls had spent hours preparing and were halfway through the show when the electricity went out across Durban North. No problem, the inverter would kick in and we would continue. However, despite much coaxing, our back-up plan did not kick in, and our girls and teachers were left with a choice: stop the show they had spent weeks preparing for, or pivot, change the programme, adapt the items where necessary and keep going.

Without much panic, they pivoted. All the girls who were not on stage grabbed their parents' phones and gathered on the steps, shining their torches towards the performers. Our brave Grade 6 girls carried on, refusing to allow the darkness to bring their celebration to an end. The evening was saved and the show continued.

Similarly, on Sunday, during the U16 Top 10 Water Polo semi-final at Thomas More, our girls found themselves 4-2 down in the third chukka. I watched as the opposition correctly read our game plan and double-marked the player our passes were intended to reach. Again, our girls had a decision to make: continue doing what they had been doing, or pivot, try something different and find a way to outsmart the opposition. They changed their game plan, fought their way back and levelled the score. The match went to a penalty shootout and our girls advanced to the final.

In both instances, our girls had to actively move themselves in a new direction. The circumstances had changed, and the original plan was no longer working. They could not control the power failure or the strategy of their opposition, but they could control how they responded. They could become overwhelmed by what had gone wrong, or they could pause, reassess and try something new.

These moments provide such important opportunities for growth. While we naturally want things to go smoothly for our girls, it is often when they do not that the most valuable learning takes place. It is through facing the unexpected that our girls learn to think creatively, solve problems, work together and trust their own ability to find a way forward.

As the adults who love and support them, our instinct is often to step in quickly, to fix the problem, provide the answer or remove the difficulty. Sometimes that intervention is necessary. At other times, however, we need to hold ourselves back and give our girls the opportunity to work it out for themselves. This is not withdrawing our support; it is expressing our confidence in their growing capability. Their solutions may not always be perfect. They may need to change direction more than once, ask for help or try again. But each time they are given the opportunity to navigate a challenge, they gather evidence that they are capable: I can adapt. I can problem-solve. I can recover. I can try again.

That is how courage grows, not in the absence of difficulty, but in discovering that when the lights go out or the original game plan stops working, they have within them the ability to find another way forward.

C Lourens

Faith and Flourish

The Power of Faith

This year, Religious Education has been placed into the schedule of our little Grade R girls, and it has quickly become one of my favourite encounters. I get to see faith through a childlike lens, and they often have the most beautiful things to say about Jesus. I am even affectionately known as their "God teacher"! Their excitement to learn brings me such joy.

But this week, God reminded me that while I may be their teacher, they can also be teachers to me.

In an ordinary moment, feeling that things were a little tough between my many roles, I simply asked Jesus to help me listen more carefully to what He might be saying to me. Later that day, I had a beautiful conversation with a young lady who reminded me what a gift it is to witness their lives and for them to witness mine.

She reminded me that God is always doing something in our lives. He uses every part of our story, even the difficult parts, to touch and change the life of another person.

We have been exploring this with our Grade 11s: every life is holy. Every person we encounter carries a story, and perhaps God has placed us in their story for a reason.

So, this week, my challenge is simple: Whose life will you touch? How will you allow God to use your story to bring hope, kindness or love to someone beside you?

With Love and Faith,

Miss T. Nanak

Confirmation

We congratulate our two confirmands, Dominique O'Brien and Susan Matebhere, who completed their Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 30 August at Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

Let us keep them in our prayers, that the Holy Spirit may grant them wisdom, courage, and fortitude, and guide them to live as faithful witnesses of Christ in the world.



Staff news

Mrs Leanne Mundy-Castle took part in the celebration **'Heart of Freedom'**. This was a breathtaking celebration of dance, courage, connection, and community.

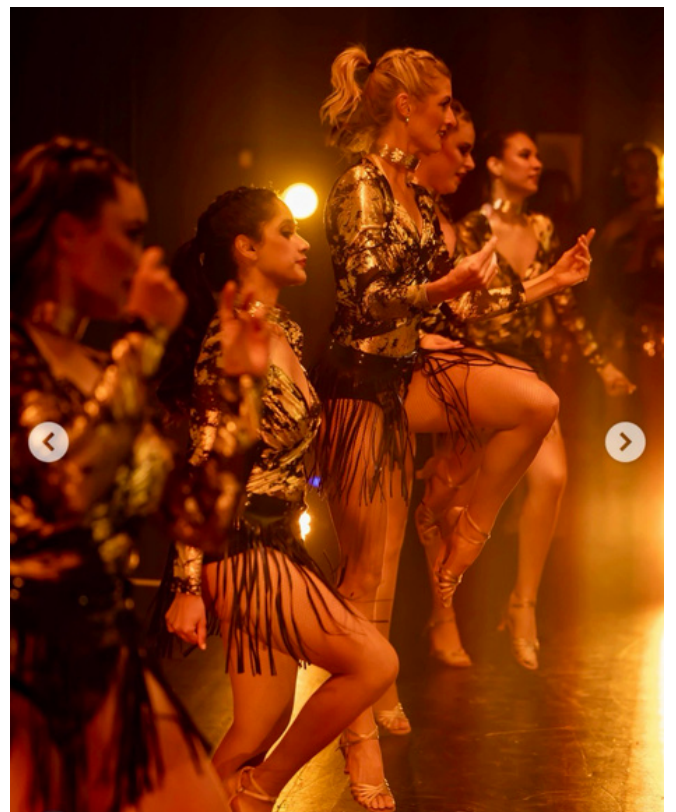
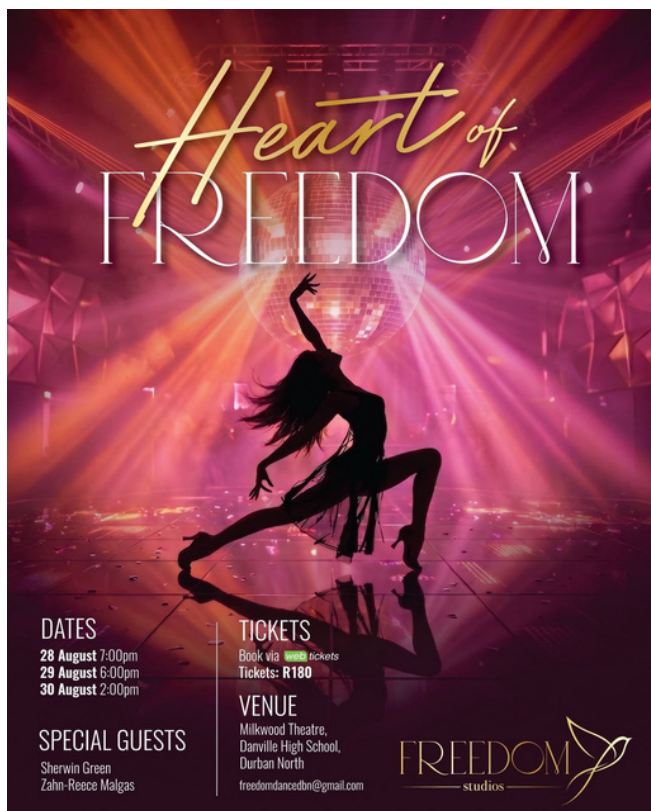
Featuring 36 extraordinary women, 5 young dancers, and special guest performances from some of South Africa's finest talent, this year's production is a powerful reminder that dance belongs to everyone.

Women from all walks of life - beginners taking their very first bow, former professionals returning to the stage, working professionals, business owners, mothers and daughters, and passionate dancers fulfilling the dream that once felt out of reach, come together as one, united by a shared love of movement and the unwavering support of one another.

Audiences experienced an unforgettable journey through an exciting variety of dance styles, breathtaking showstoppers, live vocals, and heartfelt performances that celebrate strength, vulnerability, joy, and the courage to simply be yourself.

Featuring special guest artists Sherwin Green, one of Durban's most accomplished and elite professional dancers, and Zahn-Reece Malgas, acclaimed singer, dancer and MC from Johannesburg, whose remarkable career has graced stages and theatres across South Africa.

More than a dance show, Heart of Freedom is a **celebration of sisterhood**, belonging, and the belief that it is never too late to chase your dreams. It is a tribute to every woman who has found confidence, friendship, and a place to call home through dance.



Foundation Phase



Grade 2s and 3s continue to gain experience at the hockey festivals



Sarvani Kistnasami represented Fatima at the KZN Sub-Youth Athletics League 1. Sarvani came 3rd for her 60m run and 4th for her 80m run.

Senior Primary

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DCS PRIMARY SCHOOL COASTAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Opponent	Result	Score
Northlands	Won	3-0
Virginia	Won	2-0
Lynford	Won	5-1
Umhlali	Won	2-0
Finals vs Ashton	Lost	1-2
Placing us 2 nd overall out of 10 schools.		



Our school hosted the **Primary School Coastal Hockey Tournament**, which was a fantastic celebration of hockey, filled with fun, camaraderie, competition and enthusiastic support. Our U13A team did us proud, battling their way into the final against Ashton. They played an entertaining and highly competitive final, finishing with a fantastic 2nd-place position.



Senior Primary

SP HOCKEY vs MARIS STELLA			SP HOCKEY vs PENZANCE		
U10A	Won	7-1	U10A	Lost	2-3
U10B	Lost	0-1	U10B	Drew	2-2
U10C	Drew	1-1	U10C	Drew	2-2
U10D vs MARIS STELLA U10C	Won	5-3	U10D	Lost	1-3
U11A	Drew	1-1	U11A	Drew	0-0
U11B	Won	2-1	U11B	Drew	0-0
U11C vs MARIS STELLA U11B	Lost	1-4	U11C	Lost	0-3
U13A	Won	6-0	U13A	Won	1-0
U13B	Won	11-0	U13B	Won	2-0
			U13C	Lost	0-2



Senior Primary

SP CROSS COUNTRY AT CRUSADERS SPORTS GROUND

U10

Payton Snelling	3 rd
Ruby Kitto	6 th
Abigail Wingfield	8 th

U12

Harris Gunther	3 rd
Mufaro Kachisi	4 th
Ivy Power	5 th
Brooklyn Artz	7 th
Leila Salmon	8 th
Mackenzie Barrie-Smith	9 th
Georgia Dunlop	10 th

U13

Willow Gunther	2 nd
Emma Morgan	4 th
Jessica Reilly	10 th



Our Grade 6 and 7 runners joined relays with DPHS at the Hoddy Relay Race hosted by Reddam House Umhlanga. Our teams did very well with some podium finishes. Well done!

30KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
		Brooke Greenwood	Liya Jugath

60KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Florence Coetzee	Joanna Herselman	Brooklyn Artz	Lara Britz
Kyla Massey		Frankie Coetzee	Karien Van Schalkwyk
Imogen Tilley		Mufaro Kachisi	

100KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
		Brooke Ellis	Emma Morgan

Senior Primary



On Saturday 22nd August **Anna Fabian** represented the Umlazi District at the KZN U11 Netball Festival. They played many games throughout the day. The competition was stiff. Many talented girls from all regions. Her team placed 2nd overall and received a silver medal. Well done, Anna.



Ryleigh Moir swam in the KZN short course champs swimming gala over the last two weekends. She achieved personal best times in all her events. She also came 3rd in 100m backstroke and 1st in 50m backstroke. Well done, Ryleigh.



Nqobile Nhasseno and **Mia Govender** participated in Durban Netball Premier League over this weekend (NPL).



Mackenzie Barris-Smith participated in the La Lucia Mall 5km on Sunday 23rd August. She was the 1st lady overall; the 1st Junior and came 6th overall (men and women).



Milena Luizinho participated in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Competition for Rhythmic Gymnastics on Saturday 22nd August. She placed 2nd in the U10 age group for the Ribbon and Clubs routine.



Asimbonge Qwabe has been selected for the Kwa-Zulu Natal Gymnastics team. She has been selected to participate in the National Championship in Cape Town.



Lihle Sukhulu represented Fatima at the KZN Sub-Youth Athletics League 1. Her results are as follows:
80m - 3rd
100m - 1st

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:

Elisabeth Roberts

- Gold - group acro - large group
- Silver - contemporary solo
- Silver - musical theater - 2nd place
- Silver - acro solo - 2nd place
- Gold - group acro
- Silver - duet 2nd place

Charlotte Hunter

- Acrobatic dance production - 1st gold category
- Acrobatic solo - 1st in Silver
- Acrobatic dance groups - 1st in Silver
- Lip sync duet - 1st in Silver
- Lip sync group - 1st in Silver
- Lip sync competition solo - 2nd in Silver

Emily Roe

- Silver 1st - lip sync duet
- Gold 1st - acrobatic dance production
- Bronze 1st - acrobatic solo
- Silver 1st - acrobatic dance group
- Silver 1st - lip sync competition solo
- Silver 1st - lip sync group



High School

U14A Water polo KZN Top Schools Champions!

A huge congratulations to our U14A Water Polo Team on an outstanding performance at the KZN Top Schools Water Polo Tournament this weekend.

The girls showed incredible determination and teamwork securing their place in the final against DGC, where they claimed an impressive 3-1 victory.

We are incredibly proud of our girls and this fantastic achievement.



U16A Water Polo KZN Top Schools Runners-Up!

Another fantastic result for our Water Polo teams. Our U16A girls also progressed to the KZN Top Schools final, where they faced DGC in a hard-fought match, eventually going down 9-5.

A brilliant second-place finish, well done, team.



Fast 5 Netball Tournament

Congratulations to our U15A and U17A netball team on their great performance at the Curro Fast 5 Netball Tournament.

U15A placed 2nd

U17A placed 1st

A great experience and achievement for our two teams.

High School

KZN Gymnastics

Congratulation to Olivia Page, Lola Crawford and Riley Gouws who have been selected into the KZN Rhythmic Gymnastics team to compete at the National Championships.



KZN Soccer

Congratulations to Sophia d a Costa, Olivia Crawford and Evelyn Amos on their selection into the KZN Soccer teams



A huge congratulations to Charly-Rose Boyall on being selected for the **SA U16A Hockey Team!**

Charly-Rose recently represented South Africa at the Zimbabwe National Tournament, where the team played five international matches. They performed exceptionally well, winning all of their pool games and progressing to the final against the SA U17A side. In a closely contested match, they narrowly lost 2-1.

Adding to this remarkable achievement, Charly-Rose finished as the top goal scorer for her team, showcasing her talent, dedication, and hard work throughout the tournament.

High School

U14A KZN Water Polo Tournament

U14A vs Maris Stella	Won	14 - 2
U14A vs DGC	Lost	3 - 4
U14A vs Ashton	Won	5 - 3
U14A vs St Mary's	Won	7 - 5
U14A vs St John's	Won	7 - 5
U14A vs St Anne's	Won	4 - 3
U14A vs Ashton (Semi Final)	Won	4 - 1
U14A vs DGC (Final)	Won	3 - 1

1st Place Overall

Soccer vs St Mary's

U14A	Drew	1 - 1
U14B	Lost	0 - 3

U15A Fast 5 Tournament

U15A	Won	1 - 1
U17A	Lost	0 - 3

U16A KZN Water Polo Tournament

U16A vs Maris Stella	Won	11 - 2
U16A vs Kloof	Won	18 - 2
U16A vs TMC	Won	6 - 2
U16A vs DGC	Lost	3 - 4
U16A vs Danville	Won	10 - 8
U16A vs Curro	Won	6 - 2
U16A vs DGHS	Won	11 - 2
U16A vs TMC (Semi Final)	Won	5 - 4
U16A vs DGC (Final)	Lost	9 - 6

2nd Place Overall

Fast 5 vs Curro SR

U15A	Won	1 - 1
U17A	Lost	0 - 3

U17A Fast 5 Tournament

U17A vs CLL	Won	21 - 5
U17A vs Kingsway	Won	7 - 5
U17A vs Kuswag	Won	12 - 5
U17A vs Curro SR	Won	9 - 1
U17A vs Kloof	Won	11 - 2
U17A vs Suid Natal	Drew	8 - 8
U17A vs Kloof (Semi Final)	Won	9 - 6
U17A vs Kuswag (Final)	Won	9 - 8

High School

2026 English Olympiad Results

It was exciting to receive this year's English Olympiad results which were excellent. The theme of the Olympiad was "Victim or Victor" with a set anthology of a wide genre of writing entitled "We Have a Chance". The examination is a challenging three-hour paper with literary minds from across South Africa taking part. A total of 5030 entries from 242 school were received for this year's Olympiad.

Five of our girls received Gold certificates: Anika Albertse, Cary's Matthewson, Kristin Naidoo, Riddhi Dayaram and Bublebenkosi Ngema. We had 76.48% of the 51 girls who wrote the Olympiad achieve 60% and above. We were also delighted to have four girls in the Top 100 in the country:

56th Cerys Matthewson

57th Kristin Naidoo

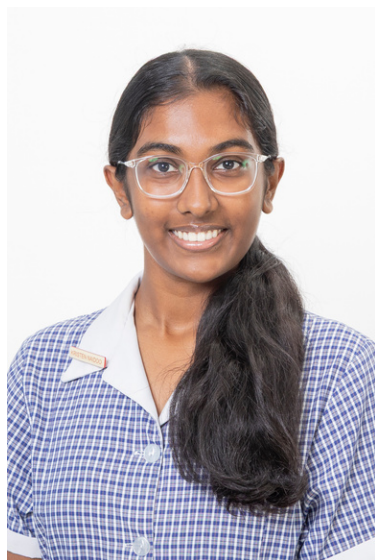
59th Riddhi Dayaram

95th Anika Albertse

All of the learners who wrote the Olympiad were brave to put pen to paper. The exposure to new and different texts, ideas and opinions can only open up fresh horizons for them in their academic studies. This is a growth mindset.

The theme for 2027 is "Stepping Through: Future Uncertain , Possibilities Abound". A marvellous theme about the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Congratulations to all who wrote on their fine results.



Left to right: Cerys Matthewson, Kristin Naidoo, Riddhi Dayaram, Anika Albertse

Humanities

Congratulations to our talented Fatima girls who took part in **Northwood's musical, A Knight of Mystery**, this month. It is always wonderful to see our learners collaborating with neighbouring schools and embracing opportunities to share their talents in acting, singing and dancing. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and contribution to the performing arts beyond the Fatima stage.

Grade 8: Olivia Lund, Emily Meyer, Summer Birkett and Ameli Thiebaut

Grade 9: Temiloluwa Omoyeni, Eden Gould, Sarah Smith and Keah Nketu

Grade 11: Claire Kinsley

Grade 12: Eva Barkus

We also acknowledge Erin Baird (Grade 9), who was part of the production but was unfortunately unable to perform due to injury.



Humanities

A Note from the Drama Department

We watched the end of a journey that began with nothing. No theme prescribed, no script assigned, no adult in the room saying "do it this way or that way".

Three groups of Grade 11's were simply given a stage and asked: what do you want to say?

That question matters more than it might seem...

We live in an age of endless scrolling, algorithms, curated feeds, and stories told to us rather than by us. But, theatre asks something different of young people. It asks them to stand in a room, in real time, and tell a story with nothing but their creativity, their bodies, their voices, and each other. There is no filter, no edit button, no second take. It is one of the last art forms that insists on presence – and that is precisely why theatre still matters, perhaps now more than ever.

What we saw was each House's own reflection of their world: the things that amuse them, worry them, confuse them, or move them. Theatre has always been the storyteller of its age, and for two nights, this stage belonged entirely to how our students see theirs.

The sheer number of people it takes to make something from nothing – the writers wrestling a blank page into a story, the directors shaping chaos into form, the performers finding courage under lights, the stage managers and designers holding it all together quietly from the sides. Every one of them worked incredibly hard! They've showed up, practised empathy, listened harder than they're used to, felt uncomfortable, had hard conversations, and learned to hand over control of something they cared about; because no one builds a play alone.

The House Plays were judged, and a winner was crowned. That's part of the motivation, the fun and the process – and it matters to the girls. But the trophy isn't what House Plays are about. The real achievements happened over the past few weeks: in rehearsal rooms, in disagreements worked through, in scenes rewritten at the last minute, problems solved, criticism taken and steps learnt – long before a single 'scoresheet' existed.

Results were read out, winners crowned, but that isn't the point, and it does not define what any of these young people are capable of or their worth.

What they've actually done is join something bigger than themselves — a tradition of young people making theatre for young people, telling important stories, revealing hard truths, on this stage, for years before them and years after. Please, join me in celebrating that.

Phoebe Jordaan-Schoeman

House Plays Awards 2026

Best Play: St Stephens

Best Scriptwriting: St Stephens - Rachel Grendele, Tylah-Anne Stirton, and Nikita Mack

Best Direction: St Stephens - Rachel Grendele, Tylah-Anne Stirton, and Nikita Mack

Best Actress: Alex Bauristhene (St Stephens)

Best Supporting Actress: Emily Meyer (St Patricks)

Best (Dance) Choreography: Anika Albertse and Rachel de Sousa, Cerys Matthewson (St Anthonys)

Best Dancer: Amber Barkus (St Stephens)

Best Singer: Temiloluwa Omoyeni (St Anthonys)

Commended Acting: Kaylee Gourlay (St Patricks), Rebecca Grendele (St Stephens), Grace Stephen (St Stephens), Yashna Dheyaram (St Anthonys), Brooklyn Cavanagh (St Anthonys) Ivy Githinji (St Anthonys)

Commended Dancing: Amy-Rose George (St Anthonys), Cerys Matthewson (St Anthonys)

Commended Technical Design and Execution: Anele Mtshali (St Anthonys)

