



Fatima Focus

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

Principal's Message

Over the last week our school had many significant moments, including (but not limited to) our FP Seussical, the end of our Matric Trials, our annual iZindaba Film Festival, the 2027 Leadership announcements, exciting hockey and waterpolo festivals, the Sportswomen's and Humanities dinners, and two Athletics days. All this (and more!) in the midst of ordinary daily lessons being taught and break times enjoyed. Schools are indeed busy places. What has struck me in seeing all these extensive activities at play is that, yes, ours is a busy place, but it is a happy place too. And as we eagerly anticipate the holiday ahead, and then engage the last term of the school year, our hope in all that we do here is to remember: are our kids happy?

The balance between ensuring our girls are achieving and growing, while also making space for joy, is one I think about often. But I don't think the answer is necessarily to simply do less. We need to be careful that, in trying to protect children from busyness, we don't remove the very things that make school rich and memorable. Because somewhere amongst all that busyness this week, girls were finding their place. One was stepping onto a stage and discovering the courage to perform. Another was competing alongside teammates who have become some of her closest friends. Someone was entrusted with leadership for the first time. A Matric sat at her final Sportswomen's or Humanities dinner realising that a chapter she thought would last forever is almost over. And somewhere, a little girl was simply running across the playground laughing with her friends.

These things are not distractions from education. They are part of it.

We expect effort, discipline and academic excellence in the classroom . But we must also make space for stages and sports fields, service and leadership, prayer and friendship, laughter and belonging. The question is not simply how much are our girls doing? But rather what is all this doing for our girls? Is it growing them? Is it connecting them? Is it helping them discover who they are? Is it bringing them joy?

As this very full term draws to a close, I hope our girls leave a little tired, perhaps, but also full - full of stories, friendships, things they tried, moments they were brave and memories that will remain long after they have forgotten the mark they received for a particular test.

Because our job is not only to prepare our girls for the life that waits beyond our walls. We also need to make sure there is plenty of life happening within them.

C.Lourens

Faith and Flourish

Over the past few weeks, I have been reflecting on what it truly means to lead. We often think of leadership as being the person at the front, the one speaking, making decisions or guiding others. But perhaps true leadership begins somewhere much quieter: allowing ourselves to be led by God.

We are called to listen before we speak, to pause before we act, and to allow God to guide us in all that we do. At our recent Mass, Fr Marcel reminded us of something so simple yet so beautiful: we have two ears, and when we put them together, they form a heart.

What a beautiful reminder of how we are called to listen. To listen not only to God, but to one another. To listen with patience, compassion and a heart willing to understand.

St Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Love does not simply speak; love listens, remains and hopes. Perhaps this is the kind of leadership we are all called to: not leadership from above, but leadership from a heart that first allows itself to be led by God.

This week's challenge: Before you respond, speak or make a decision, pause and listen. Ask yourself: What is God inviting me to hear in this moment?

Sometimes the most powerful way we lead is simply by listening with love.

With Love and Faith,

Miss T. Nanak

Staff News



This week both Chantal Lourens and Sam Beetge joined 310 private school heads from across South Africa at the annual ISASA Heads conference. It was a wonderful time of debate, discussion and gaining insight into current trends and practices. Our friends from Springfield Convent in Cape Town and St Martins in Johannesburg, visited our school for a tour whilst in Durban

Foundation Phase

FP Heritage Day



The North Durban Art Exhibition was recently held at Virginia Preparatory School. The Grade 1 girls were so proud to see their pieces up on display.



Foundation Phase



Yasna Govender (2) participated in a Regional Maths Abergility Event this past weeken and earned herself a Silver Medal.



Ella Dunlop (3) & Indigo Gunther (3) have been running in the Interschool Cross Country League this term, Ella Dunlop placed 2nd overall and Indigo Gunther placed 3rd overall.



Ashleigh Muchauraya (2) and Kira Govender (3) participated in the Little League Netball Tournament. They played for two teams and both teams placed 3rd and 2nd in their division.



Ashleigh Muchauraya (2) competed in the Beavers Short Course Gala over the weekend and swam in the following events;

- U8 girls 100m IM (gold)
- U8 girls 25m freestyle (gold)
- U8 girls 25m backstroke (gold)
- U8 girls 25m breaststroke (gold)
- U8 girls 50m freestyle (gold)
- U8 girls 50m backstroke (gold)
- U8 girls 50m breaststroke (gold)
- U9 - U10 girls 50m butterfly (7th)



Ella Dunlop (3) competed for the KZN Cross Country team on the weekend at the SA Cross Country Champs and came 24th overall this is a phenomenal result! Well done Ella!

Foundation Phase

Our Foundation Phase learners enjoyed a fun-filled morning at Sports Day! From egg-and-spoon races and sack races to skills challenges and speedy sprints, there was plenty of excitement, competition, and camaraderie throughout the event. Well done to all the moms and dads who joined in the tug of war and made the day even more memorable!



Senior Primary

COUNTRIES AND CULTURES DAY

Our Grade 4 girls enjoyed a Countries and Cultures Day morning at DPHS. From listening to fascinating oral presentations to tasting delicious food, creating origami items, and marimba dancing, every moment was an experience.

We are incredibly grateful for the wonderful relationship between our two schools. Thank you for a lovely day, Durban Prep.



5 KM DRESS-UP RUN

Our Primary School cross-country season wrapped up with an exciting 5km dress-up fun run with our girls and their families.

Congratulations to our amazing runners for an outstanding season, and thank you to our dedicated coaches and our Fatima families for their unwavering support and commitment



Senior Primary



Our U13A hockey team enjoyed an incredible weekend at the DGC hockey Tournament. A strong final against Ashton went right down to the wire, with the match decided by one-on-ones. Our girls held their nerve and came away victorious! A special congratulations to Rosetta Evans, who was selected as the Junior (U12) Player of the Tournament, what a wonderful individual achievement!

Our U13B team enjoyed their last tournament at Ashton and had a great end to the season!



Senior Primary

From Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September our U13A squad took part in the **Our Lady of Fatima Coastal Water Polo Festival**. This was a fantastic experience for the squad and the girls gained valuable lessons and memories throughout the festival. With each game the team continued to grow, learning something new and building on their performances. This festival provided excellent preparation for their upcoming tour to Johannesburg in October.



30KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
		Grace De Robillard	

60KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Alexis Amos	Daniella Govender		
	Rosie Heffer		

100KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Abigail Wingfield	Zahiya Tayob	Irrim Tayob	
		Brooklyn Artz	
		Georgia Dunlop	

250KM CROSS COUNTRY MILEAGES

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

Senior Primary

SP HOCKEY vs CHELSEA			SP HOCKEY vs ST MARYS		
U10A	Won	2-1	U10A	Won	3-1
U10B	Lost	1-5	U10B	Drew	3-3
U10C	Drew	2-2	U10C	Won	6-2
U10D vs CHELSEA U10D	Lost	1-3	U10D	Won	4-3
U10D vs CHELSEA U10E	Won	3-2	U11A	Lost	0-6
U11A	Lost	0-6	U11B	Lost	0-6
U11B	Lost	0-2	U11C	Lost	0-2
U11C	Won	1-0	U13A	Drew	0-0
U13A	Lost	0-1	U13B	Lost	1-2
U13B	Won	2-1	U13C	Lost	0-5
SP HOCKEY vs NORTHLANDS			U13B ASHTON HOCKEY FESTIVAL		
U10A	Drew	1-1	vs DGC		Won 1-0
U10B	Won	2-0	vs NORTHLANDS		Lost 0-1
U10C	Won	6-0	vs WESTVILLE		Won 1-0
U10D	Won	1-0	vs VIRGINIA		Drew 1-1
U11A	Drew	0-0	SP INTER-HOUSE HOCKEY		
U11B	Lost	0-2	U10		
U11C	Won	1-0	St Anthonys A vs	St Patricks A	St Anthonys Won 2-0
U13A	Won	3-1	St Anthonys B vs	St Patricks B	Drew 0-0
U13B	Drew	0-0	St Anthonys A vs	St Stephens A	Drew 2-2
U13C	Lost	0-3	St Anthonys B vs	St Stephens B	St Stephens Won 3-2
U13A DGC HOCKEY TOURNAMENT			St Patricks A vs	St Stephens A	St Stephens Won 1-0
vs PENZANCE	Won	1-0	St Patricks B vs	St Stephens B	St Patricks Won 2-0
vs ASHTON	Lost	0-1	U10/U11		
vs WESTVILLE	Won	2-0	St Anthonys vs	St Patricks	St Patricks Won 1-0
vs CHELSEA	Won	2-1	St Anthonys vs	St Stephens	Drew 0-0
vs WINSTON PARK	Drew	0-0	St Patricks vs	St Stephens	St Patricks Won 1-0
SEMI-FINAL vs NORTHLANDS	Won	1-0	U13		
FINALS vs ASHTON	Went down to 1 v1 and we won those 3-2	St Anthonys vs	St Patricks	Drew	0-0
		St Anthonys vs	St Stephens	St Stephens Won	2-0
Placing us 1 st overall		St Patricks vs	St Stephens	St Patricks Won	1-0
Rosetta Evans won U12 Rising Star.					

Senior Primary

SP CROSS COUNTRY TOP 10 FINAL PLACINGS FOR THE SEASON

U10

Ruby Kitto & Payton Snelling

3rd

Abigail Wingfield

6th

Ruby Mendonidis

9th

U12

Harris Gunther

2nd

Mufaro Kachisi

3rd

Brooklyn Artz

4th

Mackenzie Barrie-Smith

5th

Georgia Dunlop

6th

Ivy Power

7th

Leila Salmon

8th

U13

Willow Gunther

2nd

Emma Morgan

3rd

Jessica Reilly

8th

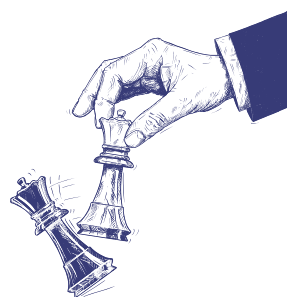


CHESS D&D

Our Senior Primary girls proudly participated in their first Chess D&D, and we could not be prouder of them

This is just the start of their chess journey, and we look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and skill with each tournament they attend.

Well done, ladies



High School

Congratulations to our 2027 Leadership Team, consisting of the Student Executive Head of Humanities, **Anele Mtshali**; Student Executive Head of High School, **Tylah-Anne Stirton**; Student Executive Head of Ethos, **Hannah Venter**; Student Executive Head of Sport, **Zoey Quigley**; and Student Executive Head of Primary School, **Aimee McIntosh**.

The Prefects, Mentors and Student Ambassadors will support the Student Executives.

We look forward to 2027, knowing that they will lead our school with grace, humility and servant hearts



High School

We were proud to host the U14 Coastal Water Polo Festival this past weekend, welcoming teams from 10 different schools for an exciting showcase of talent and sportsmanship.

The festival was a fantastic success, with players enjoying a highly competitive and enjoyable weekend of water polo. Our U14 team delivered an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, losing just one game across the entire event.

Thank you to all the schools, players, coaches, officials, and supporters who contributed to making the festival such a memorable occasion.



KARATE

Jenna represented the SA Protea National Karate Team in Algeria. She competed at UFAK, all African Continental all styles Karate Championships.

Jenna competed in the Female Cadet 14-15yr division in Individual Kumite, achieving 5th position and narrowly missing out on a bronze medal, losing to Morocco and finishing 7th overall.



High School

HS Soccer vs NGHS

U14A	Won	1-1
U15A	Won	2-0
U16A	Won	6-0
1 st Team	Won	1-0

HS Soccer vs DGC

U14A	Won	8-0
U15A	Won	6-0
U16A	Lost	6-1
1 st Team	Lost	0-2

U14 Water Polo Festival

vs DGC	Lost	3-8
vs St Anne's White	Won	7-2
vs Ashton	Won	6-5
vs Renegades	Won	10-5
vs Maris Stella	Won	14-6
vs St Mary's	Won	11-3
vs Fatima U13A	Won	8-1
vs St Dominic's	Won	13-2

Water Polo League

1 st Team vs TMC	Won	5-3
1 st Team vs WGHS	Won	3-2
U16 vs Kloof	Won	10-1
U14A vs Maris Stella	Won	8-1
U14A vs Ashton	Won	4-2



High School

Inter-house Athletics is always a wonderful reminder of how much our girls gain from school beyond the classroom. The day was not only about fast running and fierce competition, but also about fun, connection, encouragement, and making lasting memories.

From the athletes on the track to the supporters on the sidelines, the cheering houses, and the dedicated staff who ensured the smooth running of the day, everyone played a part in making the event so special. Congratulations to our trophy winners and a special mention to our **record breakers**:

- ★ U10 100m – Lihle Sokhulu
- ★ U15 100m – Bella Akal & Saskya Kistnasami
- ★ U15 200m – Bella Akal
- ★ U15 400m – Saskya Kistnasami
- ★ Ladder relay - St Anthony's



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT TROPHY (Spirit of running in the Senior Primary)	Emma Morgan and Willow Gunther
BRAND TROPHY (Best time in the Junior School for 100m)	Dylan Halstead
CARELSE TROPHY (Best time in the Senior School for 100m)	Bella Akal
CARELSE TROPHY (Best time in the Junior School for 150m)	Grace de Sousa
FATIMA CONVENT TROPHY (Best time in the Senior School for 200m)	Bella Akal
AMARAL TROPHY (Best time in the Junior School for 800m)	Mufaro Kachisi
HORN TROPHY (Best time in the Senior School for 800m)	Meg Graham
N. DE MARIGNY TROPHY (Best overall time for 400m)	Saskya Kistnasami and Meg Graham
REG WRIGHT RELAY TROPHY (Best 4 x 100m relay time)	St Anthony's Open
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U10 AGE GROUP	Lihle Sokhulu
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U11 AGE GROUP	Scarlett Cannon
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U12 AGE GROUP	Grace de Sousa
MOST POINTS SCORED IN JUNIOR OPEN AGE GROUP	Willow Gunther
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U14 AGE GROUP	Ziva Poona
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U15 AGE GROUP	Saskya Kistnasami and Bella Akal
MOST POINTS SCORED IN U16 AGE GROUP	Meg Graham
MOST POINTS SCORED IN OPEN AGE GROUP	Kayla Driver
FR SLATTERY CUP (Best athlete in the Junior School)	W. Gunther
JUNIOR VICTRIX LUDORUM (U14 & U15)	B. Akal and S. Kistnasami
SENIOR VICTRIX LUDORUM (U16 & OPEN)	M. Graham
SPIRIT CUP	St Patrick's
INTER-HOUSE TROPHY	St Anthony's



High School

Sports Women's Dinner

Our captains' speeches highlighted the many successes we celebrated this year. We excelled across our sports programmes, our teams grew, and our players showed resilience, courage and commitment. They built friendships, grew in sisterhood and demonstrated great character every step of the way. We are incredibly proud not only of their results, but of the women they are becoming through sport.

Our Sportswoman's Dinner celebrated the many achievements and individual sporting awards of our girls, while also acknowledging our top awards:

Team of the Year: Hockey First Team

Fatima All-Rounder: Mia Lopes

Commitment & Contribution Trophy: Angelina Hall & Emma Schoombee

Sportswoman of the Year: Charly-Rose Boyall

Thank you to every Fatima sportswoman who gave her best, kept showing up and made 2026 a year to remember.



Humanities

IZINDABA FILM FESTIVAL 2026

Celebrating Fatima's young filmmakers

The Izindaba Film Festival 2026 was a wonderful celebration of the creativity and talent of our Grade 10 and 11 filmmakers. Our school community gathered on the Fatima field to watch the Top 25 short films, with the girls showing fantastic support for one another throughout the evening. Each film was uniquely crafted, showcasing a wide range of filmmaking skills, creative choices, and directorial styles. Thank you to our Fatima band, Noted, for bringing great energy to the live music interval, and congratulations to all our filmmakers, nominees and award winners on a most memorable evening.

2026 AWARD WINNERS & NOMINEES

CATEGORY	WINNER	NOMINEES
Best Actress	<i>The Candle Hour</i> — Anele Mtshali (directed by Suri Kaliprasad)	<i>Dear Jesse</i> — Skyla Pillay (directed by Skyla Pillay) <i>The Last Cookie</i> — Amy Strachan (directed by Tatum Redfern)
Sound Design	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>Dear Jesse</i> — Skyla Pillay <i>Something's Out There</i> — Ruby von Allemann
Cinematography & Lighting	<i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad	<i>Lured</i> — Amogetswe Dintwa <i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse
Production Design	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>The Last Cookie</i> — Tatum Redfern <i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad
Editing	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad <i>The Chocolate Heist</i> — Juliette Reuning
Creative Concept	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>The Disappearance of Mary Brix</i> — Lily Allen <i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad
Best Single Shot	<i>The Last Cookie</i> — Tatum Redfern	<i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad <i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse
Direction	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>Dear Jesse</i> — Skyla Pillay <i>Unfiltered</i> — Langaletu Mabanga
Animation	<i>The Disappearance of Mary Brix</i> — Lily Allen	<i>Not on the List</i> — Zenzonhle Pewa <i>Memories</i> — Nikita Mack
Documentary	<i>Gifts of Girlhood</i> — Hannah Venter	<i>The Last Stand</i> — Riley Wareham <i>Hayley Jackson</i> — Asia Wegerle
Narrative	<i>After Hours</i> — Anika Albertse	<i>Lured</i> — Amogetswe Dintwa <i>The Candle Hour</i> — Suri Kaliprasad
Viewers' Choice Award	<i>Dear Jesse</i> — Skyla Pillay	<i>Gifts of Girlhood</i> — Hannah Venter <i>The Last Stand</i> — Riley Wareham

SHALL WE DANCE

Cerys Matthewson, Nektaria Arhondonis, Kerryln Hansen, Peyton Firmani and Tayla Beattie took to the Playhouse stage this month in *Shall We Dance*. Well done, girls, on holding your own alongside the professionals.



Humanities

HUMANITIES DINNER 2026

The Humanities Dinner was a wonderful celebration of the many ways the Humanities come to life at our school. With a Mad Hatter's Tea Party theme, Student Executive Head of Humanities Dominique O'Brien hosted a memorable evening celebrating the arts, culture, service, and ethos of Fatima. The highlight of the evening was the entertaining speeches by Jane and Liam Magner of 'Veranda Panda', who shared their experiences with creativity and lessons learned from pursuing a life in the arts. The evening was a wonderful reminder of the talent, commitment, and spirit that continue to shape the Humanities at Fatima.

AWARDS

Humanities All-Rounder Badges

Anele Mtshali

Emma Naidoo

Khetokuhle Nkuna

Callie Paulus

Skyla Pillay

Asia Wegerle

The Melis Family Shield for Dance

Eva Barkus

The Our Lady of Fatima Service Award

Dominique O'Brien

The Humanities Woman of the Year

Catie Padoa

The Humanities All-Rounder Trophy

Dominique O'Brien

