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

Principal's Message

Goodness me, we've had a lot of rain over the last two weeks. By now most of us have had at least one day when the weather has changed the shape of it entirely. At school, we've had sports fixtures interrupted and plans rearranged. The trip home has taken a good deal longer on some afternoons, and once you've finally made it through the front door, it takes a bit more determination to go out again for something you've committed to that evening. Somehow, a plan that sounded lovely when you made it feels rather different when it's dark and still pouring outside. I must give a shout out to the parents who attended our final PTA meeting this term - in the pouring rain!

After spending so much of the past fortnight thinking about what the rain was doing to our plans, I found myself looking at the gardens. Everything seemed greener. The soil had had a proper soaking, and there was fresh growth that I hadn't noticed before. It was lovely to see what those two weeks of rain had done for the garden. I think that's what has stayed with me. At this point in the term, when we're trying to fit so much into the weeks we have left, you feel every little disruption. The first thought is usually how we're going to make the new plan work. It takes a little longer, and sometimes a bit of distance, to see what else might have come from the change. All the while we were rearranging fixtures and adjusting our plans, the garden was growing.

Perhaps that's part of what it means to See God in All. When a day goes sideways, we're usually too busy working out what to do next to give it much more thought. But walking past a greener garden, I found myself grateful for what the rain had made possible. I hope I remember that the next time I'm tempted to write off a day simply because it didn't go to plan.
C.Lourens



Faith and Flourish

Rooted in a Love We Cannot Measure

There is something so beautiful about knowing that we are loved. But even more beautiful is knowing that God's love for us is far greater than anything we could ever fully understand.

In Ephesians 3:18–19, St Paul prays that we may have the strength to grasp how wide, long, high and deep the love of Christ is, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.

I wonder how often we really stop to think about this. How wide is His love? Wide enough to meet us wherever we find ourselves. How deep? Deep enough to reach us in our hardest moments. How high? Higher than anything we could ever imagine. And how long? Long enough to never leave us.

Sometimes, in the busyness of our days, we can forget just how loved we are. We look for reassurance in what we achieve, what others think of us or whether we have got everything right. Yet God's love is not something we have to earn. It is already there, waiting for us to receive it.

My challenge to you this week is to pause each day and remind yourself: I am loved by a God whose love has no limits. Then, perhaps, ask yourself how you can make someone else feel a little more loved, seen and valued.

With Love and Faith,

Miss T. Nanak

Staff news



Congratulations to Miss Erasmus on her marriage! Wishing her a lifetime of love, happiness, and beautiful memories as she begins this exciting new chapter as Mrs Potgieter.

Parent's Corner



Thank you to the PTA for supporting us with a contribution to the East Coast Radio Big Favour .

Foundation Phase

Our 2027 Grade 1 learners had an absolute blast at their Orientation Day! They had so much fun meeting their new teachers, exploring their new surroundings and getting excited for the wonderful journey ahead. We can't wait to welcome them to our school family.








SAINTS' DAY

The Foundation girls had so much fun celebrating Saints' Day by dressing up as their favourite saints.It was a lovely day filled with creativity, excitement and learning.






Foundation Phase

Foundation Phase Carol service

The Foundation Phase Carol Service was a truly special celebration and a wonderful way to begin the season of Advent. Our little girls delighted the audience with their beautiful singing and musical talents, filling hearts with joy and reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Through their performances, we reflected on God's great love in sending His only Son to be our Saviour. It was a meaningful and uplifting occasion that brought our school community together in worship, gratitude, and anticipation of Christ's coming.

















Foundation Phase



Well done to all our swimmers who participated in the **Northlands Guppy gala** and achieved outstanding results.



Ella Dunlop participated in the KZN Champs for trail running at the Umgeni Valley where she placed 3rd female in the U20 age category.



Ashleigh Mucharaya competed in the MAC Gala at the Rachel Finlayson Pool, she swam in the 7 to 8 years category earning herself 2 golds and 2 silvers. She was also awarded best 8 and under swimmer.



Kuhlekonke Sibiya & **Blayke Hamilton** have both recieved their sacroment of reconcilliation for the first time. This is a special milestone for both girls in their Catholic faith where they learn about Gods love and forgiveness.



Ahana Maharaj completed their Trinity College Violin and Piano initial respectively obtained a merit pass.

Yasna Govender passed Trinity Grade II Piano with merit and was the youngest candidate to sit the examination. She worked very hard for this result. Well Done Yasna!



The Grade 3 swimmers have been making a splash at the **Grade 3 galas** this term! They have participated enthusiastically, shown great sportsmanship, and achieved excellent results. Well done to all our swimmers on their hard work and success in the pool.

Senior Primary

SP INDOOR HOCKEY INTER-HOUSE

U10			U11		
St Anthonys vs St Stephens	St Stephens won	2-3	St Stephens vs St Anthonys	Drew	1-1
St Anthonys vs St Patricks	St Patricks won	0-2	St Stephens vs St Patricks	St Stephens won	2-0
St Stephens vs St Patricks	St Patricks won	1-3	St Patricks vs St Anthonys	St Anthonys won	1-3



SP INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

U10A			U11A			U13A		
Penzance	Won	3-0	DGC	Lost	1-2	St Marys B	Won	5-0
Northlands	Won	3-1	Ashton	Lost	0-3	Winston Park	Won	3-2
St Marys B	Won	2-0	St Marys A	Lost	0-3	Ashton	Lost	1-2
Westville	Won	6-0	Penzance	Lost	0-1	DGC 2	Won	5-2
St Marys A	Drew	0-0	Northlands	Won	2-1	St Marys A	Lost	1-4
DGC	Lost	0-1	**U11 Mixed**			**U13C**		
St Marys A	Lost	1-2	St Marys B	Drew	1-1	Ashton C	Lost	0-3
Ashton	Lost	0-2	Westville	Drew	1-1	Umhlali C	Drew	2-2
U10B			St Marys A	Lost	0-5	**U13D**		
Penzance	Lost	0-2	**U11B**			Ashton D	Drew	0-0
RHU	Lost	3-1	Penzance	Lost	0-3	Maris Stella D	Drew	2-2
			CLL	Lost	0-1	Atholton A	Lost	4-1

Senior Primary





KZN U13A TOP SCHOOLS WATER POLO TOURNAMENT		
OPPONENT	**RESULT**	**SCORE**
Ashton	Won	8-0
Umhlali	Lost	0-4
Northlands	Lost	1-4
Virginia	Won	9-1
DGC	Drew	1-1 (Lost on penalties)
Ashton	Won	4-2
Finishing 7th Overall		

U12 WATER POLO LEAGUE		
FATIMA 1		
OPPONENT	**RESULT**	**SCORE**
St Marys 1	Lost	2-5
Westville 1	Won	9-1
St Marys 2	Won	8-1
FATIMA 2		
St Marys 1	Lost	0-12
Westville 2	Drew	2-2
St Marys 2	Lost	2-4

U11 WATER POLO LEAGUE		
FATIMA 1		
OPPONENT	**RESULT**	**SCORE**
St Marys 1	Lost	1-4
DGC 1	Lost	1-4
FATIMA 2		
OPPONENT	**RESULT**	**SCORE**
St Marys 2	Lost	1-4
Umhlali 2	Lost	0-7

U11 DGC WATER POLO FESTIVAL					
FATIMA 1			**FATIMA 2**		
OPPONENT	**RESULT**	**SCORE**	**OPPONENT**	**RESULT**	**SCORE**
DGC A	Lost	0-5	DGC B	Lost	0-6
St Marys	Lost	1-3	Ashton	Lost	0-6
DGC B	Won	5-0	St Marys A	Lost	1-7
Ashton	Lost	1-3	Umhlali B	Lost	8-0
Umhlali B	Won	3-0	Umhlali A	Lost	0-12
DGC A	Lost	0-4	Maris Stella	Lost	0-3
Maris Stella	Drew	2-2	Umhlali B	Lost	0-6
Umhlali A	Lost	0-7			
Umhlali B	Lost	1-4			

Senior Primary

PENZANCE NETBALL NIGHT LIGHTS	
OPPONENT	**RESULT**
U11 1 vs Orient 2	Won - Placing them 4th overall
U11 2 vs Port Natal	Lost - Placing them 10th overall
U12 1 vs Orient	Won - Placing them 3rd overall
U12 2 vs Port Natal	Lost - Placing them 8th overall









Virginia Dash for Cash Gala

The girls swam exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of fun, competitive swimming.

- U10: 2nd place in one race and 5th place in two races.
- U11: 7th place in two races and 8th place in one race.
- U12: A fantastic achievement, winning all of their races!
- U13: 6th place in two races and 5th place in one race.

A special mention goes to Ryleigh Moir, who competed in the individual Dash for Cash event and secured an excellent 3rd place.

Senior Primary

Our Lady of Fatima girls proudly represented Durban Surf Lifesaving Club at the first Nipper Carnival of the season.
We are delighted to share that Durban Surf took first place overall, and these young athletes all played a part in securing this fantastic victory!
The girls competed across a variety of challenging surf and beach events, including Surf Swim, Malibu Board Race, Body Board Race, Beach Sprints and Beach Long Run, demonstrating incredible determination, teamwork, courage and sportsmanship.
We would love to recognise the following Our Lady of Fatima learners for their contribution:

Under 10
- Indi Gunther
- Amy Herselman
- Kira Govender

Under 11
- Ruby Kitto
- Ruby Mendonidis
- Kyla Massey
- Brooke Smit
- Stella Cannon
- Gabi Chedzey

Under 12
- Mia Govender
- Harris Gunther
- Scarlett Cannon
- Joanna Herselman







KZN SANESA AWARDS (EQUESTRIAN)

Out of thirteen primary schools in KwaZulu-Natal fielding a single rider, Our Lady of Fatima won the KZN SANESA Primary School Group I trophy.

Charlotte Goble achieved the following individual results:
- Top Primary School Horse and Rider Combination - Charlotte Goble and King Courtenay, 1st of 79 riders
- Working Hunter Champion - Top Primary School Working Hunter Rider
- Joint Equitation Champion - Top Primary School Equitation Rider
- Runner-up Primary School Working Riding Rider
- Second Runner-up Primary School Top Rider (this is overall points, regardless of number of ponies ridden - so the girls ahead of her rode 2 and 3 ponies).

Humanities

Harper and **Mackenzie Judge** Participated in AIDT Dance Exams in multiple disciplines of dance in October. Mackenzie Judge, Grade 6B, achieved 87% for modern and 90% for Tap. Harper Judge, Grade 2R achieved 90% for modern and 94% for Tap.





Huirong Shen achieved a Grade 3 in her violin exam, **Alex Glock** achieved a Grade 2 in her Music Theory exam with merit, **Bailey Chetty** achieved Grade 2 in her Violin exam with merit and **Elizabeth Snyders** achieved an award in her Initial Guitar exam n Rock and Pop with distinction.







Nateya Naidoo recently participated in an online International Youth Public Speaking competition called Speech Maze. On the 07th of November, she competed in the age group from 10 – 14 years old and was announced as a finalist. Nateya is congratulated for receiving Honors and Runner Up in her group, she was also awarded as the winner of her region which was Sub Saharan Africa.