RIETONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 & 2 2026

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Rietondale Family

It is with much joy that I am writing this note for our Newsletter again.

Whether you are a returning family member or joining the family for the first time this year, we are thrilled to have you with us. The classrooms are busy and the sound of teaching and learning is heard every day. There is something wonderful about the first few weeks of school; it is a time for making new memories and lifelong friendships.

Our dedicated staff has spent countless hours preparing learning environments where every learner feels safe, seen and supported. They are committed to nurturing the well-being, creativity and character of every learner, not just inside the classroom, but also outside during extramural activities.

Education is a journey we take together. We believe that communication is the key ingredient to success. We encourage you to be involved and stay connected through ClassDojo and d6. Please ensure your notifications are turned on.

We have had so many fun and exciting activities already for this year and we look forward to many more to come. Do not miss out. Please encourage your children to take part in as many activities as possible, especially our Gr. 7 learners, to remember their primary school years with a smile.

It is my biggest joy to walk on the corridors and be greeted with a smile and even a short conversation from time to time. We are a school with many blessings and privileges that many children in other schools do not have. We need to respect and treasure that. Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Let us make this the best year yet!

Kind regards
Miss Goosen
Principal

Please send an email if any of your contact details change.

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- From the Staffroom
- Rooted in Creativity
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From the Staffroom

Walking through the Night and Standing Together

On Saturday, 14 March, the Cansa Relay Race started at 18:00 till Sunday morning at 05:00. 15 staff members made up this amazing team. We shed tears, hugged and supported each other. We stood together to support all our loved ones who have fought or are still fighting cancer. We joined a strong, caring, compassionate and always hopeful community in support for all whose lives have been affected by cancer. There was someone walking at all times. In total we walked 764 laps, each lap is 300m, an impressive 229.2km, to raise money for this worthy cause. I am so proud to have had this wonderful experience to walk with such a wonderful, passionate and strong team of women. What an honour and blessing.

Mrs Mills



Stronger Together

On Saturday, 7 February, the staff of Rietondale Primary gathered on the school fields for an early start to what turned out to be a really special morning. With a muffin in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other, we were warmly welcomed by the Team Building Institute (TBI).

Over the next few hours, we took part in a variety of fun, interactive activities that had us laughing, thinking and working together in new ways. It was a great opportunity to learn more about ourselves and each other beyond the classroom or office setting. With every member of staff involved, it really highlighted that every person at Rietondale plays an important role in making the School what it is.

We ended the morning with a relaxed lunch together, enjoying good conversation and a shared sense of connection.

A sincere thank-you to Miss Goosen and the SMT for putting together such a well-planned and meaningful event. It was a wonderful morning that left us feeling refreshed, connected and ready for the year ahead.

Miss MacGregor

The Rumbling Rietondalers Spark

Fifteen members of our staff proudly participated in a cancer awareness walk held on 14 March. Demonstrating remarkable dedication and team spirit, the group collectively completed an impressive 764 laps between 18:00 and 05:00 the following day.

The evening was engaging and meaningful, featuring a variety of activities such as performances by drum majorettes and Jump Inc., as well as Zumba sessions in which several of our staff members enthusiastically participated. The event also included live singing and opportunities for participants to come together in celebration and support.

Most importantly, the walk served as a powerful tribute to cancer survivors and a moment of remembrance for those who have sadly lost their lives to the disease. As the Rumbling Rietondalers, it was an honour and privilege to be part of such a significant and inspiring event.

Miss Nel

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From the Staffroom

South Africa Fights Back for Bronze at the Estonia Ice Hockey Tournament (Part One)



From 2 March to 6 March, our South African women's ice hockey team travelled to Estonia to compete in an exciting international tournament featuring six teams: Estonia, Israel, Philippines, Bosnia, Singapore and South Africa. The competition promised to be challenging and from the very first game we knew we were up against strong opponents.

Our opening game was against the host nation, Estonia, a team widely expected to take the gold medal. Unfortunately, the match ended in a 7–0 loss for South Africa. Estonia proved to be the toughest team in the tournament and the defeat was difficult for our team to process. It left many of us wondering what the rest of the tournament might hold. Despite the disappointment, we knew we had to put the loss behind us, refocus and return to the hard work that had brought us this far.



Our second game was against Bosnia. We entered the match hopeful and determined to show improvement. Although we lost 3–2, the game felt very different from the first. We could already see clear progress in our teamwork and execution. We were doing many of the small things right—strong passing, better positioning and solid defensive play. Sometimes in hockey the puck simply does not bounce your way and that seemed to be the case for us in this game. Even in defeat, we could feel the team growing stronger.

With three games still ahead of us, we knew we had three more opportunities to prove to ourselves what we were capable of.



Our third match was against Singapore and after a tough two hours of play, we finally secured our first win of the tournament with a 5–1 victory. This moment meant so much to our team. Winning meant we were able to sing our national anthem together—something that only happens when you win your game. The last time we had the honour of singing the anthem after a victory was in 2023, nearly three years earlier. Hearing those familiar words echo through the arena while standing proudly together was incredibly emotional. It reminded us why we work so hard and how much representing South Africa truly means.

That win restored our belief and confidence as a team.

Going into our fourth game, we felt far more competitive and confident. We faced Philippines in what turned out to be another very close contest. Unfortunately, the match ended in a 2–1 loss.

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From the Staffroom

South Africa Fights Back for Bronze at the Estonia Ice Hockey Tournament (Part Two)





While disappointing, it also felt like a moment of humility—a reminder that every game must be earned. Despite the result, we were proud of our performance. With each game we played, we became stronger, more disciplined, and more united as a team. With one game remaining, we were sitting in fifth place. Our final match was against Israel, and we were understandably nervous. Israel had been playing extremely well, defeating Singapore 11–0 and the Philippines 3–1, along with putting up strong performances against the other teams.

However, we entered the game with a simple mindset: we had nothing to lose.

What followed was one of our most determined performances of the tournament. We played with heart, intensity, and belief in one another. Our efforts paid off with another victory, and we initially believed we had finished the tournament in fourth place. After celebrating on the ice and proudly singing our national anthem once again, we returned to the changing room feeling proud of what we had accomplished.

Then came an unexpected and unforgettable moment.

Our team manager burst into the changing room with the biggest smile and incredible news—we had actually finished in third place. Due to the final results, win–loss records, and world rankings, South Africa had moved up to claim the bronze medal.

For many teams, third place might feel disappointing. But for us, it was something truly special. After years of hard work and challenging results, this achievement showed that we are improving and moving in the right direction. It was a powerful reminder that perseverance, teamwork, and belief can lead to meaningful progress.

This tournament in Estonia was more than just a series of games. It was proof that our team is growing stronger and that our journey toward even greater success is well underway.

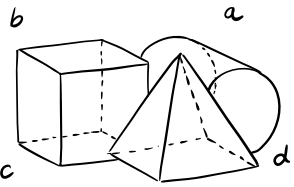
Mrs D. Botha





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Prefects





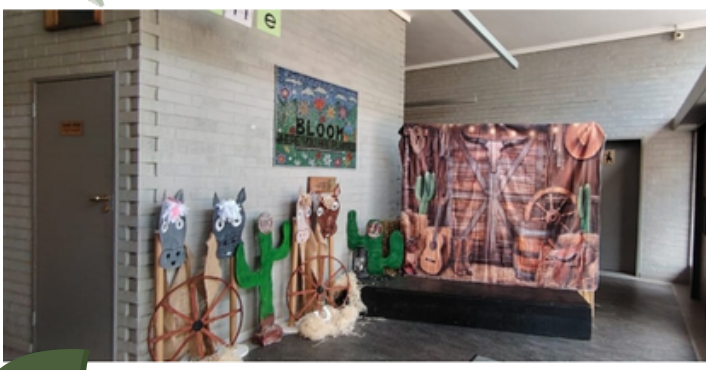
From Pledges to Power

Heartful leadership comes from within and with this comes great responsibility. A famous quote from Spiderman, “With great power comes great responsibility.” With this, heartful leadership concentrates on empathy, vulnerability and caring about humanity. To be a leader is tough but there are always some privileges to being a leader. When things get tough, you fall, but you always get back up stronger. This is what it is like to be a prefect. The story of Spiderman is the ultimate tale of balancing incredible ability with personal loss. When teenager Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, he gained extraordinary powers but initially used them for his own personal gain. This unfortunately led to the tragic loss of his uncle, Ben. Haunted by the reality of this, Peter vowed to protect his city, often at the cost of his own happiness and relationships. Whether as a teacher or a photographer, he struggled to balance his life with his duty. Ultimately, Spiderman’s story is not just about fighting villains, it’s about choosing to get back up, holding onto hope and proving that anyone can make a difference.

On 23 January, we were privileged to have our prefect induction. It was a nerve wrecking experience for all of us and our parents as we had to go up on stage and we had to sign our prefect pledges and claim our prefect ties and blazers. This was a once in a lifetime experience for all of us. After the induction, we took photos of all our prefects and declared them as our prefects of 2026.

Adam Bosch

Welcome Grade 1s





A Warm Start to Our Grade 1 Journey

On 5 December 2025 we had our Grade 1 Information Morning. We were truly amazed by the number of parents who attended. It showed us just how much excitement there is for the year ahead and set a very positive tone for our new Grade 1 group. The learners enjoyed a tour of the school, and to end off the morning, they were treated to a sweet surprise—a donut.

On 13 January 2026 we had our stationery drop-off day. We welcomed our new Grade 1 learners, some very eager and excited, and others a little shy, as they dropped off their stationery for the year ahead. There was a lovely sense of excitement and anticipation as everyone prepared for this new journey.

We would like to thank each parent who took the time to attend and support their child. Your involvement makes a real difference in the growth and development of your child.

Mrs Heck

We asked some Grade ones what they love most about Grade one. This is what they had to say.

I mark the change, moving through the sky, shorter days as I wave goodbye. What am I?
uns

What do you love most about Grade one?

I like playing with my friends-Chloe
Learning-Michael
Homework and school-Katlego
My friends- Eben

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Learner Council

Leading by Example: Meet the Learner Council

We are proud to announce and congratulate the 2026 Learner Council. Each member has been selected because they consistently demonstrate responsibility, respect and a positive attitude toward school life. Their peers and teachers recognise them as learners who lead through action, not only words.

We look forward to the contribution the 2026 Learner Council will make this year. Congratulations once again to all our new members, Rietondale Primary School is proud of you!

Mr de Beer



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Sports







Diving into House Pride

On Friday, 20 February, Rietondale Primary School was buzzing with excitement. It was no ordinary Friday; it was INTER-HOUSE GALA DAY!!

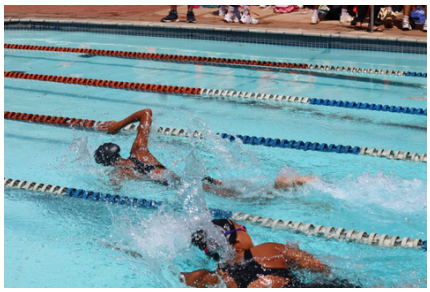
At first, I wasn't too sure if the learners were more excited about the gala itself, or the fact that no schoolwork would be done during the day. Just a few hours later after all the setting up was concluded, the learners made their reasons known... It was both of course!

The scene was set, the excitement was growing, the voices getting louder with the learners shouting the names of their House. SATURN!... JUPITER!... NEPTUNE!... MERCURY! The learners slowly entered the pool area, sitting at their designated areas waiting for the show to start. THEN... it was time to introduce the cheerleaders from each House. The introduction of the Spirit Trophy made a huge impact, as the crowds went wild! It was truly a spectacle of the senses with the bright colours, the singing, the drums and the best chaos you have ever heard!

Every swimmer gave their absolute best that day, making themselves, the teachers and their parents very proud. We look forward to having the best chaos again next year.

Mr van Bassen







1. ICE^3

2. NO NO / RIGHT

ANSWERS:

1. ice cube
2. right under the nose

Sports

Fearless, Focused and Fast

The swimming season started the last week of January with a scheduled four friendly galas that led up the Hillcrest gala on 3 March.

Our team might have been the smallest team at the B-league gala but they showed that heart and commitment matter far more than numbers. Our swimmers competed with confidence and determination and despite being a small team, brought home medals that the whole team could be proud of.

Hannah van Heerden, Hannah Schröder, Chaeli Hendricks and Layla Bourbon made up our girls U/12 freestyle relay team and brought home a third place. Well done!
A first time Hillcrest participant, Zack Oakes, received a bronze medal in the boys U/9 breaststroke. Hannah Van Heerden received a silver for her 50m breaststroke. Grayson Van Zummeren received a silver medal for the boys U/13 50m freestyle and Chaeli Hendricks received an impressive 1st place for her girls U/12 backstroke.

Special recognition must go to Grayson Van Zummeren and Chaeli Hendricks for receiving invitations (must qualify to receive an invitation) to participate in the Prestige Gala held a week later. Only the very best in Pretoria qualified for this event and Grayson fought extremely hard for an impressive 4th place in his freestyle and Chaeli a remarkable 3rd place in her backstroke.
Miss Reyneke

Serving up Success

The first term tennis season was an exciting and rewarding one for our players. The U/11 boys participated in the league for the first time this year. Although it was a new experience for them, they learned valuable lessons from every fixture and showed great improvement as the season progressed.
The girls' team had a strong season, winning three out of their five matches, while the open boys also performed well, securing three victories during the term. Unfortunately, two fixtures had to be cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions.
Throughout the season, our tennis players gave their best every time they stepped onto the court. They played with determination and pride while consistently displaying excellent sportsmanship which made our School proud.
A special word of thanks must go to Mr Hartslief, Mrs Rademeyer and Mrs Jüterbock for their dedication, commitment and support of the tennis programme.
Mr Hartslief

"Every champion is a contender that didn't give up"
-Gabby Douglas-



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Sports

From Strength to Success

Being healthy and strong is the best way for a child to start out in life. These children are happier and perform better in sports and academics. This term Physical Fitness Training was well attended and the children challenged themselves to not give up. It still amazes me how many times they are able to run around the field in an hour and do balance and strength training. This extramural is not only for those who do not take part in team sports but for team players to improve their strength and fitness to perform better in their chosen sport. Hope to see you all next term.

Mrs Mills.

Batting Back with a Comeback

Cricket at Rietondale Primary School unfortunately isn't the big sport it once was, but that doesn't mean we are giving up just yet! Cricket is slowly but surely on the up at the School. We have quite the consistent attendance to practices and for many of those players, practise is definitely paying off. We have some great talent at the school and we look forward to participating in the T10 tournament, which will be held in the near future.

Mr van Bassen



Rugby Pre-Season Builds Strong Momentum

The rugby fields have been buzzing with energy this term as our boys launched into a strong and exciting pre-season. From the very first whistle, the teams have shown determination, physicality and true Rietondale pride.

On 19 February, we kicked off our pre-season against Voortrekker Eeufees, securing a comfortable victory. The boys played with confidence and set an early benchmark for the season ahead.

Our next fixture on 26 February saw us travel to Laerskool Hermanstad where every team left everything on the field. The boys played with heart, passion and commitment. A special mention must go to the U/11 team who delivered a dominant performance and blew Hermanstad away with their skill and teamwork.

One of the standout moments of the pre-season came on 14 March when our U/13A team faced Curro Academy Pretoria. It was a proper rugby battle with big tackles, strong carries and bodies feeling the effects afterwards. Our boys stood tall and secured a well-deserved 19-7 victory making the school incredibly proud.

We will wrap up our pre-season on 19 March when we host Laerskool Queenswood on home soil. The boys are eager to continue building momentum as we head into what promises to be a thrilling rugby season. The season ahead is shaping up to be a big one with some exciting matches on the horizon.

To all our parents and supporters, we encourage you to come out and support the boys whenever you can. Your voices on the sideline make a massive difference and inspire the teams to push even harder.

Mr Hartslief

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Foundation Phase Art

Have a look at the wonderful art our Foundation Phase learners have created.

















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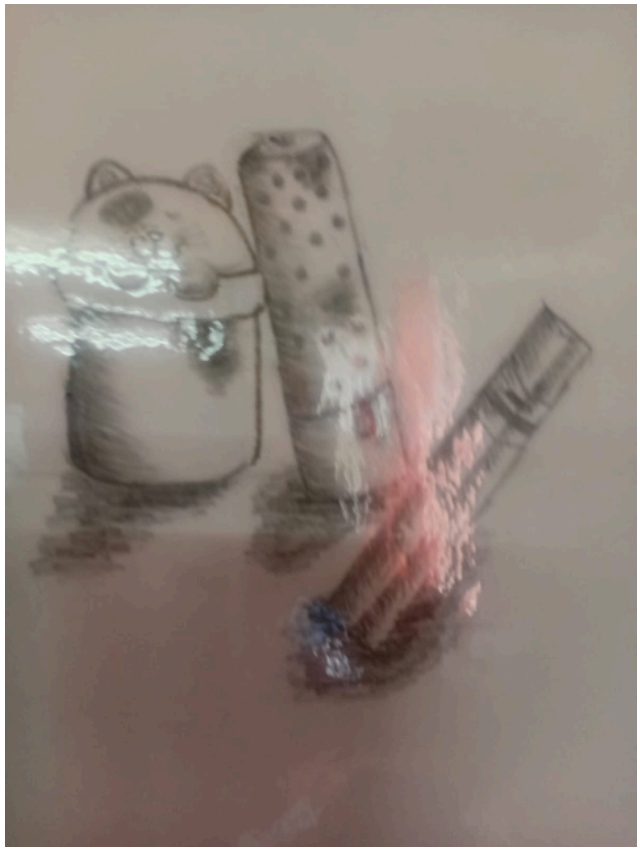
Intersen Phase Art

Have a look at the wonderful art our Intersen Phase learners have created.









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Cultural Matters





MAKING WAVES AND MINDSCAPES IN ART

Our Grade 6 and 7 Art Club has been a wonderful way for learners to relax and get creative after a busy school day. The afternoon sessions are always filled with plenty of imagination.

Recently, learners explored abstract art with the theme "What Goes on in the Head." This gave them the chance to express their thoughts and feelings in a unique way.

They also worked on monochromatic artwork based on the theme "Under the Sea." Using different shades of one colour, learners created beautiful ocean scenes. This activity helped them see how much you can do with just one colour when you experiment with tone and shading.

Most importantly, the learners had fun and enjoyed the freedom to express themselves. The Art Club continues to be a creative space where everyone feels encouraged to try new ideas and grow in confidence.

Mrs Pretorius



I love art because of all the things we made: A cat in a cup and a dog that stands. I gave my mom the cat in a cup. It was so cute and my mom loved it. Art is fun. Come join art club. **Neo**

Paws and Playful Creations

This term, we focused on a variety of craft activities. The learners used cardboard, beads and wool which added to the beautiful artwork. We made a cat in a mug, a dog and cat which can stand and a mobile. Thank you to all the learners for fun afternoons of chats, laughter and creating.

Miss van Renen

We made a very cute cat coming out of cup which I gave to my mom and a little standing dog which I put in my room. Art class is fun because you use creativity and imagination to put together masterpieces. **Rowan**

Art was fun. I loved the things we made. A kitty in a cup and a cat and a dog that could stand. I really enjoy art and I wish it was every day. **Rahim**

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Cultural Matters

Rietondale Primary School Choir Prepares for Festival Performance

The sound of singing has been filling the halls at Rietondale Primary School as the School Choir works hard in preparation for an exciting performance later this year.

Learners have been attending regular rehearsals, practising harmonies and refining their songs as they get ready to take the stage at an upcoming choir event.

During rehearsals, the young singers focus on vocal warm-ups, rhythm and blending their voices together.

Rietondale Primary School will join 14 other choirs for the Choir Festival at Doxa Deo Moot in May, where school and community choirs will come together to celebrate music and talent. The event is expected to showcase a variety of choral styles and bring together singers from across the area.

Choir organisers say the festival is not only an opportunity for performers to share their music, but also a chance for audiences to experience the joy and unity that choral singing brings.

With rehearsals continuing in the weeks ahead, the Rietondale Primary choir is eager to represent their school and share their love of music with the wider community.

Miss van Veen

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Cultural Matters









Speak it. Play it. Show it.

We kicked off this term with communication skills and how to get a message across effectively. Our focus then shifted to one type of public speaking: demonstrating. Learners performed an experiment and explained how they went about it and what the outcome was. They also involved their audience in predicting the outcome.

The term ended on a high note when each learner demonstrated either an indoor or outdoor game to their peers. The objectives and rules of the games were explained. All had great fun and many laughs when we joined in and played the interesting games.

Mrs Heunes

A Booked-Up Day

On 9 March, our School was filled with excitement as both learners and teachers came dressed as their favourite book characters. The day was full of colour, creativity and fun as stories came to life around us.

We saw everything from pirates to characters from Harry Potter, Frozen, and Snow White. One of our teachers even dressed up as Moonface from The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton.

After all the excitement, we settled down for DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). It was a calm and cosy time where everyone could simply enjoy their books and get lost in their own stories.

It was such a lovely day, filled with laughter, imagination and a shared love for reading.

Miss MacGregor



Where Faith Takes Flight

What a blessing to share the Word with one another every week. Interesting lessons were learned from the lives of baby Moses, the two spies Josua and Caleb, the Good Samaritan and John the Baptist. The Baptism of Jesus touched everyone. This was the only moment where God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit were together on earth. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. Learners made doves to remind them of this sacred moment.

Mrs Heunes

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Cultural Matters





Rooted in Creativity

On Saturday, 28 February, Ava Scharnick and Amy Ladanyi participated in the finals of the Tshwane North art competition at Wonderboom Junction. Schools across Pretoria submitted artwork as part of the selection process. The theme 'the tree as the protector of nature' encouraged learners to think about the role that trees play in nature conservation. Ava and Amy worked together to create a graffiti wall for the competition. They worked well together and represented Rietondale Primary with great enthusiasm.

Mrs Mbanbo

QUIZ time!

1. What is South Africa's iconic tree of life?
2. What herbal tea is made from the leaves of the South African red bush plant?
3. Which creatures will you find at Boulders Beach?
4. What is South Africa's oldest city?

ANSWERS:

1. baobab 2. rooibos 3. penguins 4. Cape Town

RIETONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Academics

Hands-on Learning in Natural Sciences

Learners at Rietondale Primary School have been actively involved in exciting Natural Sciences and Technology projects this term.

The Grade 4 learners have been learning about plants by growing their own. They planted seeds and have been observing how they change and grow over time. Through this project, learners investigated the seven life processes and the conditions needed for their seeds to germinate and grow successfully.

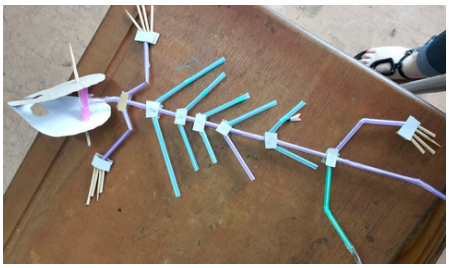
In the Grade 5 classes, learners have been studying reptiles while learning about vertebrates and invertebrates. As part of their project, they built models of reptile skeletons to learn more about how bones support and protect the body and also help organisms move.

Learners have enjoyed seeing their projects take shape and are eagerly preparing for the next round of projects to be completed for Term 2.

Miss van Veen









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Academics

Sharpening Study Skills

On 21 February, our Grade 7 learners came together in the school hall for a useful presentation on study methods and skills. The session helped them understand how they learn best and how to tackle their schoolwork more effectively.

Miss van Veen and Miss MacGregor led the session, explaining Bloom's and Barrett's Taxonomy and showing learners different ways to think and process information. They also explored summarising. Different learning styles: visual, auditory and kinaesthetic methods were discussed so learners could see what works best for them. Parents also attended and were given helpful advice on how to support reading development at home.

A big thank you to Mrs Dhanraj, Mrs Pretorius, Mrs Nonyane and Miss Kunene for also attending. A special thanks to Miss van Veen for the logistics around this event. It was a wonderful day that gave learners lots of useful tools to help them grow academically.

Miss MacGregor

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

short-term memory

This is like your brain's sticky note. It holds a small amount of information for a short amount of time.

long-term memory

This is like a filing cabinet in your brain. It stores information for a long period of time so you can use it later.

Working memory

This is like a backpack. You use it to hold information temporarily.

HELPFUL STUDY TIPS

- Your short-term memory can only handle a few pieces of information at a time.
- Working memory needs room to think. If you give it one focused topic, it can understand it, make connections and practise properly.
- Focus on one concept in a study session for deeper learning.
- Keep study sessions short: Only 20-30 minutes at a time with a break of ten minutes to rest.
- Do three to four sessions then take a longer break of 30 minutes.

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Academics



Growing Safe, Strong and Respectful

Our Grade 3 learners had an important Self Awareness talk on 12 February as part of Procare's Child Protection Programme.

The topics that were discussed were:

- Respect: Treating others with kindness and valuing differences
- Personal Space: Understanding boundaries and saying "no" when needed
- Dangerous Situations: Identifying and avoiding risky situations
- Bullying: What it is and how to respond
- Ganging Up: Why it's not okay to join in when others are being hurtful

These discussions help our learners build healthy relationships and stay safe.

Thanks to our facilitators from Procare for leading this valuable conversation.

Mrs Malga



HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

boundaries

Limits we set to safeguard our emotional, physical and mental well-being.

Bullying

Unwanted, aggressive behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated over time, causing physical, social or emotional harm.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."
-B.B. King-

"In the world of respecting others, there is no such thing as too young to start.'
-Confucious-

RIETONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A Heartfelt Thank You

At Rietondale Primary, we are constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to have such a supportive and involved parent community.

Our recent Angels Day was a wonderful example of this. Parents filled the hall with energy and willingness as they gave of their time to cover school and library books. What may seem like a small task makes a big difference in the daily lives of our learners, and we truly value the care and effort that went into every book.

Adding to the spirit of the season, our Valentine's Day sale was another lovely success. It brought a sense of fun and excitement to the school, while also showing the strong partnership between home and school.

To all our parents — thank you. Thank you for your time, your effort, and your continued support. It does not go unnoticed and it plays a vital role in making Rietondale Primary the special place that it is.

Miss MacGregor

Bible Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything there is a season, and a time for purpose under heaven.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Sometimes life feels confusing, and I don't always understand why things happen when they do. But you remind me that everything has its time, and every season has a purpose.

Help me to trust that—even when I feel stuck, impatient, or unsure of what comes next. Teach me to accept the season I'm in, whether it's a time of waiting, growing, or letting go.

Give me peace when I want to rush things, and courage when I feel afraid of what's ahead. Help me to believe that you are working, even when I can't see it.

And in all of it, draw me closer to You.

Amen.